History 1450
France 1500-1715
Syllabus

A general survey of the history of early modern France 1500-1715, with a special emphasis on topics in cultural history including: humanism and printing; Reformation and Counter-Reformation; political thought; royal and court rituals; and the beginnings of the Enlightenment.

Requirements:
-regular attendance at lectures and participation in section (10%)
-short paper (4-6pp) due Week IV (topics to be assigned, 15%)
-midterm in Week VII (20%) and final (30%)
-15-page paper, due at the end of reading period (25%): analysis of a primary source of your choice (with instructor's prior approval); use of sources in French is encouraged but by no means required

A note on buying books:
All readings are also on reserve in the libraries. Many of these titles are available in multiple copies in the libraries which you can check out for your use this semester. In addition many of the primary sources are available in earlier out-of-copyright translations on-line (as indicated in this list). Be aware that these "vanilla" editions (e.g. from Project Gutenberg) are often harder to use and expensive to print; other translations date from the period we are studying, which presents both advantages and disadvantages. Books (whether purchased or borrowed from the library) present distinct advantages for use in class. (R) indicates recommended status, which means that less than the whole book will be assigned.
Books ordered at the COOP (prices from amazon.com)
Robin Briggs, Early Modern France (OUP) 019-289284-3; $29.95
(R) Mark Greengrass, French Reformation (Blackwell); 0631145168; $20.95
(R) Montaigne, Complete Essays (Penguin); 0-14-044604-4; $16.75 [a different translation is available on-line at Project Gutenberg]
Descartes, Discourse on Method and related writings (Penguin); 0-141446990; $9.00 [a 17th-century translation is available on-line at Project Gutenberg]
Pascal, Pensées, ed. and tr. Roger Ariew (Hackett, 2005) 0-87220-717-X [each edition of this work follows a different order for the material, but the part we will read is the most consistent between editions--I have ordered a new, superior edition which is not widely owned in the library; but other editions are fine too]; $9.60
Corneille, The Cid, Cinna... (Penguin); 0-14-044312-6; $14.00 [a different translation is available on-line at Project Gutenberg]
Molière, Tartuffe, tr. Richard Wilbur (Harvest Books) 0156881802; $10.40 [a different translation is available on-line at the Gutenberg Project]
Fontenelle, Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds (U of California P) 0-520-07171-9; $16.95 [an 18th-century translation is accessible through Harvard e-resources in Eighteenth Century Collections Online]
Voltaire, Letters on England (Viking Penguin); 0-14-044386-X; $5.33 [a different translation available on-line at Project Gutenberg --www.gutenberg.org

Items not for sale
A number of readings are not available for purchase. In these cases the books will be put on reserve in the library and a master copy of all these texts will be available for personal copying at the History Department Library in Robinson Hall 2nd floor--in the "readings closet."

Part I: Structures of early modern France

Week I (WED Jan 31): introduction
W, lecture 1: introduction; Annales school; geography
W/F: no section this week
Reading: maps from Braudel, The Identity of France (in class)

Week II (Feb 5): social structures
M, lecture 2: life in the country
W, lecture 3: urban life; Paris
F: discussion section--exceptionally this week the Wed section will meet Fri at 11 in Robinson Hall, Lower Library (this will give us a chance to form the sections and watch the movie before section meets)

Reading: Manor life in old France from the journal of the sire de Gouberville, 1549-62, ed. Katharine W. Fedden (1933), browse and esp. 1-35, 70-79 & 210-11, 106-15, 151-60. [book on reserve in libraries under Fedden; copy in Hist Dept Library]


Briggs, pp. 33-58

MOVIE SCREENING: "The return of Martin Guerre" Wed Feb 7, 7-9pm. CGIS-Knafel N-050 (this building is located at 1737 Cambridge St, room is on basement level); the DVD is also on reserve at Lamont.

Week III (Feb 12): political structures
  M, lecture 4: the three estates; robe and sword nobility
  W, lecture 5: Renaissance monarchy
  W/F: discussion section

Reading: Claude de Seyssel, The Monarchy of France [book on reserve in Lamont under Seyssel; copy in Hist Dept Library]

Briggs, pp. 1-10, 58-72.

Part II: the crises of the sixteenth century

Week IV (Feb 19): Francis I and humanism
  M: HOLIDAY
  W, lecture 6: Renaissance and humanism in France; SHORT PAPER DUE in class
  W/F: discussion sections held as usual
  F: SESSION AT HOUGHTON LIBRARY **this is a required and especially fun part of the course **come to either of two sessions 1-2:30 or 2:30-4pm. Meet in Houghton Lobby at the beginning of the session. Pls travel light if you can--you will leave all your things in a locker.

Reading: Budé, "On establishing the study of letters" and Rabelais, from Gargantua and Pantagruel, in The Northern Renaissance, ed. Lewis Spitz, pp. 48-72. (not on reserve--photocopies distributed in class)

Eugene Rice and Anthony Grafton, The Foundations of Early Modern Europe, pp. 1-10 ("the invention of printing")


Week V (Feb 26): the French Reformation
  M, lecture 7: the birth and spread of Calvinism
  W, lecture 8: wars of religion (lecture by Amy Houston)
  W/F: discussion section

Reading: Mark Greengrass, The French Reformation (COOP), chs. 1-3.

Primary source readings TBA

Please start THINKING ABOUT FINAL PAPER TOPICS; a useful list of primary sources available in English can be found at: http://jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu/~dabell
Week VI (March 5): wars of religion
   M, lecture 9: Huguenot resistance theory
   W, lecture 10: Michel de Montaigne
   W/F: discussion section
   Montaigne, Essays (COOP), to the reader, I, 31 (Of cannibals); II, 11 (Of cruelty); III, 6 (Of coaches); III, 11 (Of cripples)--and any others that appeal to you.

Week VII (March 12): midterm and getting started on the final paper
   M: review for midterm
   Humanities Center talk of relevance to next week (but not required): Monday 3/12, 5pm, Abby Zanger (Tufts University): "I publish therefore I perish... or do I? Cartesian agitations on print and publication," Barker Ctr 114
   W: IN-CLASS MIDTERM
   W/F: NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK
   F: FULL-CLASS SESSION ON RESEARCH METHODS, in Sever 306, featuring Barbara Burg, reference librarian for History, on power-use of HOLLIS and e-resources

Part III: the seventeenth century—consolidation

Week VIII (March 19): intellectual recovery
   M, lecture 11: French Counter-Reformation *STATEMENT OF FINAL RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS*
   W, lecture 12: the "libertins érudits"
   W/F: discussion section
Reading: Descartes, Discourse on Method (COOP), parts I-IV, and part V 1st four paragraphs
   Pascal, Pensées (COOP), part I, sections 1-18 in Ariew ed, pp. 1-69 [=1st 19 headings in other editions of Pascal, beginning with "order" and ending with "to make religion attractive"]

SPRING BREAK

Week IX (April 2): Louis XIII
   M, lecture 13: Louis XIII
   W, lecture 14: classical culture
   W/F: discussion section
Reading: Corneille, The Cid (COOP), entire
   Briggs, pp. 73-122.
**Week X (April 9): the rise of Louis XIV**
  M, lecture 15: peasant revolts; the Fronde
  W, lecture 16: Louis XIV ascendant (1661-79)
  W/F: discussion section
**Reading:** Molière, *Tartuffe* (COOP), entire

**Week XI (April 16): later Louis XIV**
  M, lecture 17: crises under Louis XIV (lecture by Noah McCormack)
  W, lecture 18: the French overseas
  W/F: discussion section
**Reading:** Saint-Simon, *Memoirs* (COOP) selections TBA

**Part IV: Toward the Enlightenment**

**Week XII (April 23): the “crisis in European consciousness,” 1680-1715**
  M, lecture 19: Cartesianism
  W, lecture 20: quarrel of the ancients and the moderns
  W/F: discussion section
**Reading:** refer back to Descartes, *Discourse on Method*
  Fontenelle, *Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds* (COOP), entire

**Week XIII (April 30): Voltaire**
  M, lecture 21: Voltaire
  W, lecture 22: overview and conclusions
  W/F: discussion section
**Reading:** Voltaire, *Letters on England* (COOP)
  Briggs, conclusion.

A review session will be scheduled during reading period.

**Final paper due Wednesday May 16** (last day of reading period).

**Final exam Wednesday May 23** (as currently scheduled; the registrar reserves the right to make changes to the exam schedule)