WILLIAMS COLLEGE
PROGRAM IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES

LEAD 212/ HIST 393  Spring 2020
Professor Susan Dunn

SISTER REVOLUTIONS
IN FRANCE AND AMERICA

Books:

1. Dunn, *Something That Will Surprise the World: The Essential Writings of the Founding Fathers*
2. Wood, *The American Revolution (for your own background reading)*
3. Wood, *Revolutionary Characters*
5. Walzer, *Regicide and Revolution*

1. Tuesday April 7 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
   group telephone conference call

   INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE PHONE

1-800-501-8979
Enter access code 2133865#

   AND IF IT WORKS PROPERLY, YOU’LL BE CONNECTED TO OUR GROUP MEETING.

READINGS: Baker anthology, *The Ancien Regime and the French Revolution*

PLEASE READ THESE PAGES IN THE INTRODUCTION

pp. 1-9 -- outline of French Revolution

#1 Loyseau, just pages 21 and 27
#2 Bossuet, just page 32, 36, bottom of 38, p. 39 just proposition on “nature of majesty”
#14 Sieyes, p. 154-156 and p. 178
#5 Diderot just p. 84 and the intro to Diderot on p. 71

and Packet #3 — Rousseau, The Social Contract
Rousseau explains his idea of the General Will, which greatly influenced the French Revolution and turned it into a despotic regime.

What is the “General Will”? It is what all citizens would want for their community if they thought only as selfless citizens who want the good of all and did not think as private, selfish individuals. When they all vote on the General Will, that General Will by definition represents the good of all. Therefore the General Will is “sovereign.” It is all powerful, indivisible and infallible. If you disagree with the General Will, we either have to “force you to be free” (because true freedom means agreeing with and obeying the General Will and being a good compliant citizen) or we have to exile you or kill you. Sorry. You are not allowed to disagree with the General Will, because it (supposedly) represents the good of all.

Here you can see the difference between the two revolutions. The election of 1800 recognized the right of citizens to oppose the government. There is no such thing as the general will (although Geo Washington erred in his Farewell Address when he condemned parties for going against the “national will.” The point is that there is no national will.

So please read this in Packet #3
First page, Book 1, ch. 7 The Sovereign
Ch. I, p. 170
Ch. III, 172-173
Ch. XIII p. 219
Ch. VII. p. 244-245
Bk 4, ch. 2: “Voting.” p. 230

7. April 14

**Estates General & Constitution**
Baker anthology:
#16 Dispatches from Paris P. 190;

#20 Decrees of Nat'l Assembly, pp. 228-229

#22, DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN 237-239.

2) Packet #4
--Burke, "Letter to Depont"

In the packet, READ AND COMPARE THE FRENCH DECLARATION OF RIGHTS WITH THE AMERICAN BILL OF RIGHTS
Do you notice the important differences? In American, the first amendment reads. “Congress shall make no law” -- the right to freedom of speech belongs to the individual and government may not interfere. But how is that “right” framed differently in France? Who gets the most protection for their rights? the individual or the “society”? And what does that mean for individual freedom?

8. April 14

The King's Trial
Walzer, *Regicide and Revolution*
Walzer essay: pp. 80-89

speeches:
THE CRAZY RADICAL SAINT-JUST: pp. 120-127, 175

OTHER CRAZY RADICAL, ROBESPIERRE
READ 130-133

VERGNAUD WANTS TO DEFEND THE
KING AND He ARGUES FOR A PARDON FOR THE
KING

Read bottom of p. 203 and top of 204

THOMAS PAINE who was an important figure during the American Revolution is now in France and speaks at the King’s trial. He asks that the King be exiled to America! Read pp. 212-214.

BULLET-POINT PAPERS DUE FRIDAY APRIL 17
PLEASE PUT TOGETHER A 1 (ONE) PAGE PAPER ON THE KING’S TRIAL AND SEND ME AN ATTACHMENT JUST BULLET POINTS

Choose one of these subjects
1. Burke's moderation (Letter to Depont) vs. extremism of Robespierre and Saint-Just
2. Disparagement of Moderation
3. The radicalism of the French leaders, Robespierre and
Saint-Just.
4. The French radicals insist on executing the king? Why? Is it about justice? or is it a symbolic act? what will it symbolize? What do you think about that?

9. April 21

The Terror
1) Baker, Anthology
   Introduction pp. 9-12

#36, pp. 338-340

#38, pp. bottom paragraph on p. 348, 350
#39, pp. 353-354

#40, pp. 354-355

#41, pp. 362-364

#42, pp. 368; 370, 371; 374**; bottom of 376

10. April 28

WHAT AMERICANS THINK ABOUT THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
Something that will Surprise the World,

Anthology:

Adams, 254-255

Hamilton, 147-149, 168-170,

Jefferson is the biggest fan of the French Revolution: What does he write about it? Is he being serious? What points does he want to make? with him?

Jefferson, 279-280; 291-292

IN PACKET #6, READ GEO WASHINGTON’S LETTER TO ROCHAMBEAU, FIRST ITEM IN THE PACKET
About 5 or so pages into this packet, you’ll see another letter by Washington to Lafayette, June 1788. Read that one.

BULLET POINT PAPER DUE FRIDAY MAY 1

1 (ONE) PAGE PAPER -- JUST BULLET POINTS

START WITH ONE OR TWO OF THE OPINIONS ABOUT THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (FROM ONE OR TWO AMERICANS -- HAMILTON, WASHINGTON OR ADAMS)

AND SHOW THAT THE AMERICANS’ OPINIONS WERE RIGHT ON TARGET.

HOW? BY FINDING SOME QUOTES FROM THE READINGS ON THE TERROR TO BACK UP THE AMERICANS’ POINT (use quotes from the readings of the previous week)

11. May 5  
Tocqueville, Democracy in America (1840)  
Packet #7

1. Book I, Part 2, Ch. 6 - Activity that pervades U.S.

3. Book 2, Part 2, Chapters 4 on How Americans combat Individualism  
Ch. 6 on Newspapers  
7- The Need for Associations. JUST p. 523

4. Book 2, Part 2, ch. 8 - The Principle of Self-Interest Properly Understood,

5. Book 2, Part 4, ch. 6 Despotism Democratic Nations Fear -- just p. 693

12. May 12  
FINAL PHONE CHAT - WHAT DID WE LEARN?
Prompt for Final Paper 3 pages DUE FRIDAY MAY 15

Choose one or two themes and compare and contrast how the French and Americans differed on them. Analyze the key ideas. Use just the texts we’ve studied. JUST 3 PAGES.
These subjects overlap somewhat, so be precise in your introduction and narrow your focus.

1. Theme of moderation -- attitudes of the leaders in both countries toward the concept of moderation and moderate behavior -- respect or lack of respect for moderation. (You can include civility and gentlemanly manners as part of moderation.

2. Attitudes toward the concept of due process of the law (Hamilton’s Phocion; trial of king; other French quotes or decrees calling for summary punishments without due process)

3. Attitudes toward individual rights (concepts of rights in both countries’ bills of rights; laws on suspects in France; due process; Hamilton Phocion, etc. Do Rousseau and the General Will fit into this?)

4. Political dissent, opposition party in the US, any tolerance for dissent in France? Are the leaders willing to compromise in the US? in France? Does Rousseau’s General Will apply here?