

NUMBER: France's Golden Age, 1615-1774
UNIVERSITY
TERM

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Abel
Location:
Time:
Contact Information:
Office:

Required Texts

1. *The State in Early Modern France* by James Collins, ISBN 978-0521130257
2. *A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France* by William Beik, ISBN 978-0521709569
3. *The Wars of Louis XIV* by John Lynn, ISBN 9780582056282
4. Various readings posted on Blackboard

Course Objectives

Between 1615 and 1774, France became the most powerful state in Europe, and consequently, in the world. This was the result of a Golden Age in France, as three subsequent kings centralized the state and built an absolute monarchy to administer it. This course will explore the reign of those three kings, Louis XIII, Louis XIV, and Louis XV. It will emphasize the political and military exploits of each along with exploring social, religious, economic, and diplomatic aspects of the period.

Course Grades

There will be 2 exams each worth 33% of the final grade and one paper worth 33%.

Exam Content:

- 5 Identification Questions worth 10 points each
- 2 Essay Questions worth 25 points each
- Exams **are not** cumulative

The midterm exam will be given on two separate days: the IDs on the first day and the essays on the second. The final exam will be given with both IDs and essays on the same test, with extended time.

Missed Exams:

Students who miss an exam and provide the instructor with a valid excuse for their absence may take a makeup exam up to one week after the test date. Makeup exam content will be determined by the instructor at his discretion.

Research Paper:

Additionally, students will be expected to write a research paper on a topic decided in consultation with the instructor. It will be due one week before the date of the final exam and will comprise the remaining 1/3 of the semester grade. Detailed instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

Paper Content:

At least 5 sources consulted, including at least 1 primary source.
5-7 pages, typed and double-spaced.

Classroom Behavior and Attendance

There is no formal attendance policy for the course. You are a consumer who purchased this course; if you choose not to attend, your grade will most likely suffer. That is your choice to make.

You are each also expected to treat your instructor and classmates with respect at all times. This includes not talking while the instructor is talking; not using cell phones, laptop computers, and other electronics as distractions during class; not wearing headphones during class; and arriving on time and not leaving early except in an emergency.

Blackboard

The course Blackboard page will contain all of the important documents necessary for the course. This includes lecture materials, readings, and assignments. Please familiarize yourself with it as soon as possible. **Do not email me through Blackboard.** Please use the email listed above for all class communications.

Schedule:

- 20 January: Syllabus/Intro
- 22 January: What is France?
- 27 January: What has France Been?
- 29 January: Louis XIII and Richelieu
- 3 February: Richelieu and Foreign Policy
- 5 February: The Fronde
- 10 February: Louis XIV – Character and Life
- 12 February: Domestic Policy
- 17 February: Versailles and the Nobility
- 19 February: Jansenism and Religion
- 24 February: French Women and Salons
- 26 February: Wars of Louis XIV to 1700
- 3 March: Spanish Succession
- 5 March: Legacy of Louis XIV
- 10 March: Test 1 - IDs
- 12 March: Test 1 - Essays
- 17-19 March: Spring Break
- 24 March: The Regency
- 26 March: Louis XV – Life and Character
- 31 March: Louis XV’s Government
- 2 April: Foreign Policy Before 1750
- 7 April: The Austrian Succession
- 9 April: Domestic Policy
- 14 April: Jansenism Pt. 2 – Jesuits
- 16 April: French Society – Average Frenchmen
- 21 April: The Enlightenment
- 23 April: The Rise of the Parlements
- 28 April: The Diplomatic Revolution and Pompadour
- 30 April: The Seven Years War
- 5 May: Louis XVI and the Coming Crisis
- 7 May: Review and Catch-Up Day
- Test 2: Final Exam, Week of Finals

Reading Schedule:

- Collins Chapter 1
The Political Testament...
Collins Chapter 2
- Bossuet’s *Discourse...*
Collins Chapter 3
Beik Chapters 6, 9
Beik Chapters 3 and 11
- Lynn Chapters 1-4
Lynn Chapters 8, 9
- Collins Chapter 4
- Collins Chapter 5
- Montesquieu s28-79
- Beik Chapters 1, 2, 4
- Beik Chapter 5
Voltaire’s *Henriade*
Collins Chapter 6
Beik Chapter 12