

HIS 300
French Revolution in a Global Context

Summer Session II
Asynchronous (Online)

Satisfies: SBS+ [DEC: F]
Thematic Categories: "Empires, Violence & Global Connections,"
"Law, Politics & Social Justice"

Instructor: Spencer Austin

This course will delve into the international origins and global effects of the French Revolution. We will study how transnational socioeconomic and cultural exchanges gave rise to a new kind of politics—simultaneously imperial and anticolonial, democratic and authoritarian—that played out in the streets of Paris from 1789–1799. The course will explore how the French Revolution set the stage for the ideological struggles, globe-spanning wars, and breakneck social, political, and cultural changes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Special consideration will be given to connections with other revolutionary events and to the development of concepts like capitalism, socialism, feminism, abolitionism, and the nation. Each student will participate in lively discussions on Zoom, craft short weekly reading responses, deliver a presentation on a Revolution-era topic of their choice, and submit evaluations of peer presentations). There will be no traditional exams, term papers, expensive textbooks, or enrollment prerequisites.