HIS 392: Topics in Early Modern Europe

Kathleen Wilson

This synchronous online course examines the social, intellectual, cultural and political life of Britain, France and their overseas colonies from the Death of the Sun King to the Battle of Waterloo. Over the course of the 18th century, Britain and France were involved in armed struggle for over 75 years, their armies and navies clashing in Europe, American, India, Africa and the Caribbean. This period also witnessed the largest forced migration in history through the Atlantic slave trade; the intellectual revolution known as the Enlightenment; a demographic revolution doubling the size of the British population; the beginnings of industrialization; and three political Revolutions—American, French and Haitian—that changed the way humanity and rights were conceived thereafter. These revolutionary currents and their role in inaugurating the modern world are the focus of the course. We examine them through the lenses of the representations, geo-politics and pluriversal perspectives of some of its most neglected, yet important participants: women, Indigenous peoples, enslaved and coerced laborers; ex-slaves and abolitionists; philosophes and peasants, printers and African-descended revolutionaries, to develop an understanding about the nature of social and political life in the ancien regime that can account for the ruptures of the French and Haitian Revolutions.

Prerequisite: one HIS course

**DEC:** I
**SBC:** SBS+

3 credits