

HST 543. NAPOLEON Spring 2016

M - W 2:00 – 3:15

Powers 133

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Powers 241

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Office hours: Tuesday: 1:00 -4:00 and by appointment.

Books to purchase

Jeremy Popkin, *A short history of the French Revolution*

Rafe Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age*

Rafe Blaufarb and Claudia Liebskind, *Napoleonic Fightsoldiers and Civilians*

Owen Connelly, *Blundering to glory*

Isser Woloch, *Napoleon and his collaborators*

Jakob Walter, *Diary of a Napoleonic foot-soldier*

Nina Burleigh, *Mirage: Napoleon's scientists and the unveiling of Egypt*

Other readings are indicated in the syllabus. A list of suggested extra readings will be posted on Blackboard shortly.

“I closed the gulf of anarchy and brought order out of chaos. I rewarded merit regardless of birth or wealth, wherever I found it. I abolished feudalism and restored equality to all regardless of religion and before the law. I fought the decrepit monarchies of the Old Regime because the alternative was the destruction of all this. I purified the Revolution.”

This is how Napoleon chose to describe his own role in history. The enormous body of writings devoted to his career endlessly argues for or against this self-image. This semester, it will be our turn to ponder Napoleon's accomplishments and failures, and to try to understand the reason why his personality never ceases to fascinate and to inspire. We will follow common scholarly practice in approaching Napoleon and the period to which he gave his name through couples of polar opposites: tyranny and liberty, resourcefulness and improvisation, innovation and continuity, adventure and necessity. The success of this class depends on students engaging the material with genuine interest, therefore I expect all students to complete all readings, attend all sessions, and come to class prepared to discuss the material.

Evaluation: Class participation: 15 points. Each student will be responsible for preparing one specific question for at least one session.

1 short analytical essay and 2 book reviews: 15 points each
Final exam: 40 points.

Schedule:

1. January 11 - 13: Organization of the class. The Enlightenment. The French Revolution

Optional: Jeremy Popkin, *A short history of the French Revolution*

2. January 18 - 20: General Bonaparte and the Directory. Who was Napoleon Bonaparte? From Corsica to France.

Read: Connelly, pp. 1-14.

3. January 25 - 27 Love, War, and Politics. Exercises in colonialist government: Italy

Read: Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age* pp. 33-42; Connelly, pp.14-59.

4. February 1 -3: The campaign to Egypt.

Read: Nina Burleigh, *Mirage: Napoleon's scientists and the unveiling of Egypt* and Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age* pp. 43 -51. (**optional:** Juan Cole, *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East*. Palgrave-Mcmillan, 2007)

5. February 8 - 10: The coup of 18th Brumaire. New institutions for new citizens.

Taming the liberal and neo-Jacobin opposition.

The Second Italian Campaign. Dealing with the émigrés.

Read: Woloch, pp. 3-89; Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age* pp. 52-69, Connelly, pp. 61-74

6. February 15 – 17. Finances and Legislation. The Civil Code.

Read: Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age* pp. pp. 70-75.

First book review due.

7. February 22 - 24: Consul for life. Towards Empire. Coronation.

Read: Woloch, pp. 91-119 and Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age* pp.75 – 97.

8. February 29 – March 2: The Emperor. Working for Napoleon. Reality and Propaganda.

Read Woloch, pp. 120-185; Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age* pp. pp. 97-117.

Spring Break

9. March 14 -16: The Great Victories of the Great Army

Read: Connelly, pp. 75-116; Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age* pp.118-126; Blaufarb&Liebskind, *Napoleonic Footsoldiers and Civilians*, pp. 54 – 58.

Short analytical due.

10. March 21 - 23: The “Spanish Ulcer.”

Read: Blaufarb, pp.175-180; Connelly, pp. 117-134; Charles Esdaile, “War and Politics in Spain. 1808-1814” in *The Historical Journal*, 31, 2, (June 1988): 295-317. (Available on Jstor)

11. March 28 - 30: The War of the Fifth Coalition. The Master of all Europe. Seeds of discontent.

Read: Connelly, pp. 135-162; Rafe Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age*, pp. 127-157

12. April 4 - 6: The Russian Campaign. Leipzig. Abdication

Read: Connelly, pp. 163-209; Blaufarb, pp. 181-193; Lev Tolstoy, *War and Peace* (excerpts); Harold T. Parker, “Why did Napoleon invade Russia? A Study in Motivation and the Interrelations of Personality and Social Structures” in *Journal of Military History*, 54, 2, (April 1990): 131-146. (Available on Jstor); Blaufarb&Liebskind, *Napoleonic Footsoldiers and Civilians*, pp.73 -101

13. April 11 -13: What was the Empire? Pomp, circumstance, and nostalgia. Napoleon’s Paris.

Read: Woloch, pp. 186-226; Blaufarb&Liebskind, *Napoleonic Footsoldiers and Civilians*,pp. 101-147

Second book review due.

14. April 18 -20: Napoleon and the Atlantic World. The 100 days.

Read: Blaufarb, *Napoleon. Symbol for an Age* pp. 158-174.

15. April 25 - 27: Waterloo. “Boney”

Read: Blaufarb, pp. 190-194; Stendhal, *Waterloo* (from the novel *La Chartreuse de Parme* – on Blackboard). Connelly, 211-234.

Final exam.

CMU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Student Disability Services (120 Park Library, telephone 989-774-3018, TDD #2568), and then contact the professor as soon as possible.