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HIST 514.01: Field Course on the French Revolution

Linda S. Frey
University of Montana - Missoula, linda.frey@umontana.edu

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September 10  Introduction

September 17  The Larger Framework


September 24  Prologue


      Or


      And


October 1  The Scene


October 8  The Revolutionaries


October 15  The Terror


October 22  The Counter Revolution


October 29  Revolutionary Political Culture


November 5  The Napoleonic Legacy


November 12  Not So Strange Defeat


November 19  Paper Presentations

November 26  Travel Day

December 3  Plus ça change?


Or


Or


Or


December 12  In Search of Modern France


THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Explain Alexis de Tocqueville’s assertion that the revolutionaries “used the debris of the old order for building up the new.”

– Why did the Revolution follow the line of a religious revolution?

– What was the chief permanent achievement of the French Revolution?

– Why and how had Paris mastered France?

– What implicit criticism is he making of contemporary society?

– Why was “the grandiose edifice built up by our king doomed to collapse like a card castle once disturbance arose within the social order on which it was based”?

– What does he think of the *philosophes* and of their role in bringing on the Revolution?

– Why did prosperity hasten the outbreak of the Revolution?

– Why were Frenchmen split into small isolated self-regarding groups and what were the consequences of this?