

## History 224: France: 1500-1715

Fall 2017

Professor Ellen McClure

Office Hours (1732 UH): Thursdays 1-3 and by appointment

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### Required Texts: (all available at the UIC Bookstore)

William Beik: *Louis XIV and Absolutism: A Brief Study with Documents*

Barbara Diefendorf: *The Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre: A Brief History with Documents*

Molière, *Tartuffe* and *The Misanthrope* (translated Richard Wilbur)

**Description of the class:** From 1500-1715, in France and in the rest of Europe, old certainties were shattered and new ones had not yet been formed. In this class, we'll move from the arrival of the Renaissance in France through the savagery of the religious wars, arriving finally at the hyperbolic glory of Versailles and Louis XIV. Along the way, we'll see how French writers, thinkers, and politicians attempted to rearticulate and reformulate authority and meaning on almost entirely new grounds.

### Course Schedule:

**Tuesday, August 28:** Introduction: The Renaissance in Europe, and Charles VIII's Invasion of Italy (1494)

Thursday, August 30: France and the French in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century (an introduction): read Beik, pp. 1-14, Knecht, pp. 19-40.

**Tuesday, September 5:** Kings and nobility/ François I: Knecht, 41-61, 88-104

Thursday, September 7: Court society and castles: Knecht 105-141

**Tuesday, September 12:** Rabelais (prologue, chapters 52-58 on website)

Thursday, September 14: Lecture: Henri II, Catherine de Medicis, and the Council of Trent

**Tuesday, September 19:** film: *The Return of Martin Guerre*

Thursday, September 21: *The Return of Martin Guerre*, discussion

**Tuesday, September 26:** Religious tensions in France (Diefendorf, chapter 1, pp. 41-71)

Thursday, September 28: continued, Diefendorf, chapter 2 (71-81)

**Tuesday, October 3:** The Saint Bartholomew's Day massacre (Diefendorf chapter 3, pp. 82-127)

Thursday, October 5: Diefendorf, chapter 4 (128-148)

**Tuesday, October 10:** professor absent; study session for midterm exam

Thursday, October 12: midterm exam

**Tuesday, October 17:** Montaigne, *Of coaches* and *Of Cannibals* (Bb)  
Thursday, October 19: Lecture: Henri IV, Louis XIII, and Richelieu  
**Tuesday, October 24:** Descartes (excerpts, online)  
Thursday, October 26: Pascal, *Pensées* (excerpts, online)  
**Tuesday, October 31:** The Fronde (readings in Beik, 19-49)  
Thursday, November 2: Professor out of town- no class  
**Tuesday, November 7:** Fouquet, the rise of Louis XIV and Colbert (readings in Beik, 82-107)  
Thursday, November 9: continued, *paper due*  
**Tuesday, November 14:** Tartuffe  
Thursday, November 16: Court society: Beik 50-81; Scudéry on Glory (Bb link)  
**Tuesday, November 21:** The Misanthrope  
Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving  
**Tuesday, November 28:** The Grande Mademoiselle, Against Marriage (Bb)  
Thursday, November 30: The king's image (Beik: 199-218), Versailles, art, music  
**Tuesday, December 5:** The other side of the coin: Wars at home and abroad (Beik: 121-165)  
Thursday, December 7: The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes and the Code Noir; Louis' death

**Final examination: Friday, December 14 1-3 pm**

Your final grade will be composed of the following elements:

Participation (see below): 35%

Written assignment (see below): 20%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Participation:

- Participation consists in coming to class regularly and doing the reading before arriving. Please take notes on the reading and come to class ready to discuss important passages (which we'll identify together) and ask questions (which you should prepare in advance).
- Each unexcused absence above TWO will drop your final participation grade by half.
- Out of consideration for your classmates, don't be late. Each arrival more than 10 minutes late to class will count as half of an unexcused absence.
- Questions? please come see me or email me.

Written assignment:

- On November 9, you will turn in a 4-5 page paper that will either be a document comparison, involving two or more documents from Diefendorf's collection of documents around the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre, or a comparison of Pascal and Descartes, based on our readings for class. I will entertain other topic ideas if you communicate them to me at least a week in advance.
- Please feel free to come see me for help formulating your argument and structuring your paper. You are also encouraged to take advantage of the Writing Center on campus, located on the ground floor of Grant Hall. Go to [writingcenter.uic.edu](http://writingcenter.uic.edu) to make an appointment.
- I will not accept late papers.
- Plagiarism is something I, and UIC, take very seriously. Please read the official statement below carefully. If you have any doubts whatsoever about whether what you're doing could be considered plagiarism, just ask!

**Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism :** A student who submits a paper which in whole or part has been written by someone else or which contains passages quoted or paraphrased from another's work without acknowledgment (quotation marks citation etc.) has plagiarized. Maintain your integrity when completing assignments and be overzealous to give credit where it is due. If you ever are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism ask your instructor.

Students who are found to have plagiarized work may be subject to various disciplinary actions including a failing grade on a particular assignment failure of the entire course and possible expulsion from the university. In egregious cases most instructors fail the student on the spot and file a complaint with Student Judicial Affairs.