



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Continuing Education

France in Revolution, 1774 - 1804

Start date 16 September 2022 **End date** 18 September 2022

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor Dr Seán Lang **Course code** 2223NRX003

For further information contact intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk

Tutor biography

Dr Seán Lang is a Senior Lecturer in History at Anglia Ruskin University, where he specialises in modern European history and the history of the British Empire. He has taught widely at school, sixth form and university level and is a regular broadcaster on radio and television.

Dr Lang has taught courses for the Institute covering topics such as the French Revolution, Napoleonic France, Europe in the Age of Empire, the American Revolution, Victorian Britain, British India and the British Empire. He has published on British medical work in British India as well as textbooks on *Parliamentary Reform, 1785-1928*, *Nazi Foreign Policy, 1933-1939* and *Why the First World War Broke Out* as well as four history titles in the popular 'For Dummies' series, including *The First World War for Dummies*. He has recently published on young people's writings at the end of the First World War and contributed a chapter to *The Cambridge Companion to Winston Churchill*. He is currently working on changing attitudes towards Empire reflected in popular culture.

He has written extensively for the theatre and has had work performed in Cambridge, London, Oxford, Norwich, Canada, and at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Dr Lang is a Fellow of the Historical Association and has worked both with government and with the Council of Europe on developments in school history.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	France, Europe and the Ancien Régime
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Rights and the Death of Privilege
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Paris seizes control
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Making a Republic
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	The Revolution on Screen
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Virtue, Liberty and Terror
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	A Revolution at War
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

1. Develop an informed understanding of the events and ideas of the French Revolution
2. Discuss and analyse documentary evidence of the ideas and events of the Revolution
3. Discuss the impact and implications of the Revolution on our own times

Content:

We will learn about the origins of the Revolution, the ideas of the Enlightenment, the crisis in French society and government and the events of 1789, including the Fall of the Bastille. We will look at the ideals of the Revolution, at the Rights of Man and its attempts to implement them and at the impact of the Revolution on the people of France and at counter-revolutionary opposition. Finally, we will consider how the Revolution slid into Terror and how this was to lead eventually to the reign of Napoleon.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be taught through illustrated lectures, with work on documentary extracts and group discussion.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major events of the period
2. Engage in informed discussion about the ideas and concepts at stake in the revolution
3. Read, understand and discuss documentary material from the period
4. Make informed judgements about the impact of the Revolution on the modern world

Reading and resources list

Davidson, I. (2017) *The French Revolution: from Enlightenment to Tyranny* (London: Profile)

Doyle, W. (2018) *The Oxford History of the French Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford UP)

Jones, C. (2021) *The Fall of Robespierre: 24 hours in revolutionary Paris* (Oxford: Oxford UP)

McPhee, P. (2017) *Liberty or Death: the French Revolution* (New Haven: Yale UP)

Schama, S. (2004) *Citizens: a Chronicle of the French Revolution* (London: Penguin)

Scurr, R. (2007) *Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution* (London: Vintage)

Online resources:

The National Archives has some interesting material on the British response to the Revolution:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/french-revolution/>

Women in the Revolution:

<https://guides.loc.gov/women-in-the-french-revolution/digital-resources>

The Musée Carnavalet in Paris has a wealth of material relating to the Revolution:

<https://enfilade18thc.com/2009/11/20/the-french-revolution-at-the-musee-carnvalet/>