FINAL EXAM (Wednesday, December 18th 5:00-7:00 p.m.); 25% of overall grade

Six of the following questions will appear on the exam paper. You will need to answer two of them, writing approximately a five-paragraph, 40-minute essay on each. [Each is worth 35% of your final-exam grade.] Your essays should answer the question directly, and should use specific examples and evidence to support your arguments. Try to avoid exaggeration and generalizations. Draw on the lectures and on the readings.

DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL FROM YOUR PAPERS IN THE EXAM. That is, do not recycle the exact argument of your paper on the exam. You may, and should, draw on the reading you did in order to write your paper.

In addition, the exam will include 12 short selections from texts or images. You should pick a total of five and discuss their significance for the Revolutionary/Napoleonic era. Each is worth 6% of your grade on the final exam.

Questions:
1. To what extent is it appropriate to characterize the French Revolution as an “expansion of the public sphere”? What, if any, were the limits on that expansion?

2. In what ways is it accurate to say that nobles started the French Revolution?

3. Did the French Revolution abolish privilege?

4. Keith Baker has argued that already in the constitutional debates of September 1789, the National Assembly had “opted for the Terror.” On what grounds did he make that claim? Do you agree with it?

5. Some writers have used the word “genocide” to describe the Republic’s actions in the Vendée. On what basis do they use that word? Do you think it is justified?

6a. Why was Marie Antoinette executed? OR 6b. Why was slavery abolished in 1794?

7. What—if anything—did the Directory do wrong?

8. Which aspects of ordinary people’s daily lives were most transformed by the Revolutionary and Napoleonic eras?

9. What were the most important consequences of Bonaparte’s invasion of Egypt?

10. When did the French Revolution end?