HIST 3043.3  
Napoleon Bonaparte  
Fall 2014/2015

Instructor  Dr. J.T. Pekacz
Time & Place  Thursday, 16:05-18:55, room 1116 McCain Bldg.
Office hours  Thursday, 15:00-16:00; Wednesday, 14:30-15:30, and by appointment
Office  3174 McCain Bldg.
E-mail  jpekacz@dal.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
The course focuses on Napoleon and on selected political, social, cultural and military aspects of the Napoleonic Era. We will explore Napoleon’s life and time, as well as representations of Napoleon that originated both during his life and after his death: Napoleon as hero and saviour of France, as heir of the French Revolution, as state builder, and as European unifier. The course offers an opportunity to understand Napoleon and his period, and to develop analytical and critical skills by discussing assigned readings and writing a research paper on a topic provided by the instructor.

REQUIRED READINGS
Readings assigned for each week listed in the COURSE SCHEDULE section, available electronically on the Dalhousie Blackboard System (BbLearn) course web site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
(1) Participation in class discussions based on assigned readings. Attendance is required and will be recorded. Attendance does not equal participation. Participation grade will be based on the students’ knowledge of the assigned readings, as demonstrated by the quality of their contributions to class discussions. To receive a passing grade, students must attend at least 50 per cent of the classes.

(2) Mid-term exam on 16 October 2014. Format: written, short-answer test based on review questions for each class, posted weekly by the instructor on the OWL course web site. The exam will be held in class during regular class time.

(3) Research essay of approximately 3000 words (12 pages, double-spaced), exclusive of notes and bibliography, on a topic from a list provided by the instructor. Topics not included in the list must be approved by the instructor. The essay must be based on at least four secondary sources, such as scholarly monographs and journal articles, and submitted in two copies: one paper and one electronic (the latter to be sent as an e-mail attachment to jpekacz@dal.ca). Paper copies are to be submitted in class or in Dr. Pekacz’s drop-off box #89. The deadline for essay submission is 13 November 2014, 4:30 p.m. Late submissions will lose 10% per day, including weekends and holidays, and will receive a grade of zero if they are more than five days late.

The presentation (notes, layout, bibliography) of the research essay must follow the Chicago Manual of Style format. See the History Department Style Guide “Doing History at Dalhousie” available at the History Department general office (paper copies) and on the History Department web site.

(4) Final exam on the last day of classes, 27 November 2014. Format: written, short-answer test based on review questions posted weekly by the instructor on the OWL web site. Held in class during regular class time, the final exam will be based on the material assigned after the mid-term exam.
COURSE WEB PAGE
The course web page is available on the Blackboard system. Any changes to our normal routine and additional information regarding the course will be posted there. Students are required to check the web page regularly.

COURSE GRADES
participation (attendance and class discussions) 20%
mid-term exam 25%
term paper 30%
final exam 25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

4 SEPTEMBER
Introduction

11 SEPTEMBER — Origins, Personality and the French Revolution
Forrest, Napoleon, ch. 2 and 3
Philip G. Dwyer, “From Corsican Nationalist to French Revolutionary: Problems of Identity in the Writings of the Young Napoleon, 1785–1793,” French History 16 no. 2 (June 2002), 132–52.

Discussion topics:
What kind of man was Napoleon? What were some of the cultural and political factors that influenced the formation of his personality? How did Napoleon’s views on the French Revolution evolve?

18 SEPTEMBER — Path to Power: Italy and Egypt
Forrest, Napoleon, ch. 4 and 5

Discussion topics:
What was the role of political patronage in Napoleon’s early career? How did Napoleon shape his own image for public consumption? Why did Napoleon invade Egypt?

25 SEPTEMBER — The Consulate
Forrest, Napoleon, ch. 6

Discussion topics:
Was the coup of Brumaire simply another in a long line of coups, or was it a break from the revolutionary tradition? What policies earned Napoleon the reputation of a modernizer? What marred this reputation?

2 OCTOBER — Towards the Empire
Forrest, Napoleon, ch. 7

Discussion topics:
How did Napoleon consolidate his personal power in the years after the Brumaire? Why did the Consulate become a one-man regime? Where did the opposition to Napoleon’s rule come from?
9 OCTOBER — Military Campaigns after Amiens
Forrest, *Napoleon*, ch. 8.

**Discussion topics:**
Who was responsible for the resumption of war in 1803? What was the purpose of Napoleon’s military campaigns after the peace of Amiens? Was he driven to conquer Europe for personal or for political and economic reasons?

16 OCTOBER — mid-term exam

23 OCTOBER — The Empire (1)
Forrest, *Napoleon*, ch. 9

**Discussion topics:**
Why did Napoleon establish the Empire in 1804? Why was it overwhelmingly accepted, despite the apparent betrayal of the revolutionary ideals that such political system entailed?

30 OCTOBER — The Empire (2)
Forrest, *Napoleon*, ch. 10

**Discussion topics:**
What were the propaganda devices Napoleon employed to project his own image and that of his Empire? How effective were they? Did artistic creativity flourish because of Napoleon or despite him?

6 NOVEMBER — The “Spanish Ulcer” and the Russian Campaign
Forrest, *Napoleon*, ch. 11

**Discussion topics:**
How significant was the role played by the guerrillas in bringing about the defeat of the French in Spain? What possessed Napoleon to take on Russia and think that he could win? Why did the Russian campaign end with a disaster?

13 NOVEMBER — The Hundred Days and the Exile
Forrest, *Napoleon*, ch. 12 and 13

**Discussion topics:**
Why did the allies allow the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy? Why did Napoleon return from Elba? Was his final defeat inevitable?
20 NOVEMBER — Life after Death
Forrest, *Napoleon*, ch. 14 and 1

**Discussion topics:**
How did Napoleon try to shape his image after his final defeat? To what extent did he succeed to impose his own autobiographical account? How to explain Napoleon’s constant presence in France’s collective memory?

27 NOVEMBER
final exam

**Academic Integrity**
All students in this class are required to read and understand Dalhousie University’s policies on academic integrity. The main policy is outlined under “Academic Dishonesty” in the University Regulations section of the Undergraduate Calendar. This section includes definitions of plagiarism and other academic offences, as well as the faculty discipline process and the Senate Discipline Committee.

Please visit the University’s academic integrity web site at www.dal.ca/academicintegrity, for information on policies, the use of Turnitin.com, and a list of faculty resources focused on preventing and responding to academic dishonesty.

Any written work submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality (for example, by using a text-matching software) to assure that students are evaluated on the basis of their own work.

**Accommodation Policy for Students**
Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian human rights legislation.

Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of $75 per course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to fully participate in the class.

For information about the **Writing Centre** and the **Studying for Success Program**, see the course web site on the Blackboard system.
### GRADE SCALE

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