French Revolution and Napoleon, Syllabus

Week One:
Course description, presentation of background leading to Revolution. Introduction to analyzing historical documents. Viewing of actual historical documents from period.
  Group activity involving analyzing historical documents, activity with documents from French Revolution.
  Optional reading sent by email: Sieyes, "What is the Third Estate?"

Week Two:
The outbreak of Revolution in France, social, economic, political and economic changes, 1789-1791. Presentation and discussion.
  Optional reading sent by email: Rousseau, "The Social Contract"

Week Three:
  In class document analysis activity on effectiveness of Terror as an instrument of the Revolution
  Optional activity sent by email: document analysis of the French Revolutionary Calendar

Week Four:
  Discussion topic: "Revolutionaries in time put on the robes of the tyrants they depose."
  Evaluate this statement beginning with French Revolution to Napoleon's coup d'état.
  How does this inform us for the 20th century events and the present day?

Week Five:
The Authoritarian reaction, Napoleon and The Consulate, 1799-1804. Presentation and discussion.

Week Six:
Napoleonic Empire, the Grand Empire and spread of the Revolution. Presentation and discussion.
  Document Analysis activity: Napoleon, enlightened despot or dictator?

Week Seven:
The Continental System and British Blockade. Rise of Nationalism in Europe. Invasion of Russia, 1812. Presentation and discussion.

Week Eight:
Overthrow of Napoleon, Congress of Vienna, Waterloo, 1815, Presentation and discussion of lasting changes from French Revolution and Napoleon.
  Discussion question: Machiavelli suggested that a ruler should behave both "like a lion"
  and "like a fox." Analyze the policies of Robespierre and Napoleon, indicating the degree
to which they followed Machiavelli's suggestion.