FR120 DEFINING FRANCE

PRINTS AND PAMPHLETS DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

SEMINAR WEEK 5

1. Read the Déclaration des droits de l’homme et du citoyen. What makes this a revolutionary text.
2. Examine DDHC 5, DDHC 6, DDHC 9, DDHC 10, DDHC 11, DDHC 13, DDHC 20, DDHC 23, DDHC 24, DDHC 26.

* Identify symbols and allegories within these prints. What are their meaning?
* What are the symbols/allegories which keep recurring? Why do you think that is?
* Which are the symbols specific to the French Revolution? How do they cohabit with more traditional symbols?
* Examine the layout of the Déclaration within these prints. What conclusions can you draw?
* To what extent has the Déclaration itself become a symbol? A symbol of what?
* Identify instances of contradictions within the use of symbolism. What does this say about the French Revolution?

1. What are the functions of imagery for the Déclaration as text?
2. Which print do you find particularly effective? Why?
3. To what extent is political power linked to the control of the text and the image?
4. Why should imagery be a space of tension?