

History 122D: Cultural and Intellectual History of Modern Europe, Eighteenth Century

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Office Hours: Monday 2:00–4:00 and by appointment

Fall 2016

Location: Dodd 170

Monday and Wednesday: 4:00–5:15



This course investigates the historical roots of modernity through an examination of the cultural and intellectual developments associated with the Enlightenment. The Enlightenment remains both influential and controversial in the 21st century. Enlightenment thinkers developed a science of man that exposed all aspects of society to the light of reason and criticism. They gave birth to the ideals of democracy, equality, and the concept of human rights that first found voice in the American and French Revolutions. However, critics of the Enlightenment contend that these ideals implicitly excluded individuals based on gender and race and that the Enlightenment's emphasis on reason led to the development of Imperialism and Western hegemony. Embracing this complicated legacy, this course places 18th-century thinkers in the context of the development of commercial society, the beginnings of globalization, and debates on the outbreak and consequences of the French Revolution.

Expectations

Attendance at lectures and careful reading of the weekly reading assignments are necessary for success in the course. Weekly reading should be completed by class on Wednesday. Students are asked to bring the week's reading to class so that the texts can be consulted during lecture. Active participation and asking questions in lectures is highly encouraged. Slides from the lectures will

be made available to students on the class website. In order to receive a passing grade for the course all assignments must be completed. Paper prompts and more detailed directions on the assignments will be made available on the course website.

Assignments

- Paper 1: 2 page paper on the use of the language of the Enlightenment in contemporary debates: 10%
- Paper 2: 3–4 page paper on Commerce and Sociability in the Eighteenth Century: 20%
- Paper 3: 5–6 page paper on The Philosophes and the Enlightenment Project: 30%
- In-class Final Examination: 40%

Reading

The required books for the course can be purchased at the UCLA Bookstore and found on reserve at Powell Library. The assigned editions of the books are inexpensive and preferred. Additional readings will be made available as PDFs on the course website.

- Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Hackett Publishing)
- Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays* (Hackett Publishing)
- Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (Oxford World's Classics)
- Bernard Mandeville, *The Fable of the Bees* (Penguin Classics)
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings* Second Edition (Hackett Publishing)
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Oxford World's Classics)

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: What is Enlightenment?

Monday, September 26: The Seventeenth-Century Origins of the Enlightenment

Wednesday, September 28: What is Enlightenment? Radical and Moderate

Reading:

- Kant, "What is Enlightenment" (1784) pp. 41–48
- *Treatise of the Three Imposters* (1719)

I. Commerce and Sociability in the Eighteenth Century

Week 2: Making Commerce Polite

Monday, October 3: Post-1688 England and the Financial Revolution

Wednesday, October 5: The Public Sphere: Sociability, Newspapers, and Coffeehouses

Reading:

- Addison and Steele, *The Tatler* (1709–1711)
- Addison and Steele, *The Spectator* (1711–1712)
- Trenchard and Gordon, *Cato's Letters* (1720–1723)

Week 3: The Expanding World of the Eighteenth Century

Monday, October 10: Travel Literature and Modes of Comparison

Wednesday, October 12: Traveling through Eighteenth-Century Paris

Reading:

- Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (1721)
- Diderot, *Chocolate* (1753)

Paper 1 Due Monday, October 10

Week 4: Commercial Society and the Passions

Monday, October 17: The Urban Origins of the Enlightenment

Wednesday, October 19: Governing the Passions in a Commercial Society

Reading:

- Mandeville, *The Fable of the Bees* (1714/1723) pp. 51–92, 96–97, 117–118, 136–158, 199–233, 253–259

II. The Philosophes and the Enlightenment Project

Week 5: The *Encyclopédie*

Monday, October 24: Cosmopolitanism and the Republic of Letters

Wednesday, October 26: Encyclopedists and the Enlightenment Project

Reading: Selections from the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d'Alembert (1751–1772)

- d'Alembert, Preliminary Discourse (1751) selections
- Diderot, *Art* (1751)
- Diderot, *Agnus Scythicus* (1751)
- Voltaire, *Men of Letters* (1757)
- d'Holbach, *Priests* (1765)
- Diderot, *Intolerance* (1765)
- Saint-Lambert, *Luxury* (1765)
- Jacourt, *Slave Trade* (1765)

Paper 2 Due Monday, October 24

Week 6: Republicanism and the Enlightenment

Monday, October 31: Republicanism and the Debate on Luxury

Wednesday, November 2: Rousseau's Critique of the Enlightenment

Reading:

- d'Alembert, *Geneva* (1757)

- Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality* (1754) pp. 27–120

Week 7: Making the State Legitimate

Monday, November 7: Imagining Man and the State

Wednesday, November 9: Making Modern Man Whole: Rousseau's *Social Contract*

Reading:

- Rousseau, *On the Social Contract* (1762) pp. 153–252

III. Interpreting the French Revolution

Week 8: The French Revolution

Monday, November 14: Rights and the French Revolution

Wednesday, November 16: Desacralization of the State and Society

Reading:

- *The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (1789)
- Price, *A Discourse on the Love of Our Country* (1789)
- Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790) pp. 3–98 and 216–218

Paper 3 Due Monday, November 14

Week 9: Women and the Enlightenment

Monday, November 21: Family Life in the Eighteenth Century

Wednesday, November 23: Gender and the Enlightenment

Reading:

- Condorcet, *On the Admission of Women to the Rights of Citizenship* (1790)
- Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792) pp. 65–104, 150–166, 191–197, 232–283

Week 10: The Waning of the Enlightenment

Monday, November 28: German Reactions to the French Revolution

Wednesday, November 30: Legacies of the Enlightenment

Reading:

- Kant, *To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch* (1795) pp. 107–143
- Novalis, *Christianity or Europe* (1799)

Final: Wednesday, December 7: 11:30am to 2:30pm