

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 2008-2009

HISTORY 600: European Enlightenment: Culture and Society Prof. Desan
Tuesday 1:20-3:20
Office hours: Thurs. 11-1 smdesan@wisc.edu

This research seminar focuses on the European Enlightenment, the major cultural movement of the eighteenth century. We will start by setting up the social and cultural context of this movement: new social spaces, from coffeehouses to salons, generated the Enlightenment as a collective project and dialogue. In order to give you a sense of the range of Enlightenment thought and genres of expression, we will then examine primary source readings on diverse topics, including politics, economics, social customs, gender, and the body-mind connection. Across these diverse realms, Enlightenment thinkers engaged two crucial questions. How could one understand human interactions according to a new "science of society"? Could one develop theories or models for improving the moral and social quality of these human interactions? For example, thinkers grappled with the question of how politics created human bonds and ordered sociability and power in both civil society and the family. Likewise, novelists and moral anthropologists probed the gendered nature of interpersonal relations as a foundation for civil society and questioned the relationship between European and non-European customs. In the realm of economics, theorists asked how human relationships and experiences would be altered, improved, or hindered by new economic modes of international trade, industry, and the circulation of ever more goods. Finally, philosophes strove to imagine how human physiology, including differences between male and female bodies, underpinned morality and social interactions.

The major purpose of the seminar is to offer students the opportunity to do a primary-source research paper on some aspect of Enlightenment thought. Students can write on diverse topics (including issues not raised in our collective reading), but papers should focus on Enlightenment authors, contexts, and themes. Sources can include novels, political manifestos or political theory, travelogues, moral or medical treatises, works of political

economy or philosophy, personal letters, satirical literature, drama, etc. During the first half of the course, we will do some background reading and sample a variety of primary sources. The second half of the course will be devoted to researching and writing your papers, and also discussing each other's research projects.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The central requirement of this course is a research paper (c. 20-25 pp.) on a topic related to the Enlightenment. Choice of topic and compilation of bibliography will begin early in the semester, and the second half of the semester will focus primarily on the research and writing of the paper. Short assignments earlier in the semester will be oriented toward preparing you for this final paper. These short assignments include: a short 5-page paper analyzing primary material; a two-page proposal; a bibliography; an outline; a group discussion of topics. Rough drafts of the final paper are due on Nov. 25 and will be shared & discussed by groups. Final paper is due Dec. 9. Participation in seminar discussions is also a crucial requirement of the course.

The books marked with an asterisk (*) have been ordered at the University Bookstore and placed on reserve at H.C. White. Other articles and documents are in a packet available at the Copy Center in the basement of the Humanities Building in room 1650 or on reserve in H.C. White.

Week 1: (Sept. 2) INTRODUCTION

Week 2: (Sept. 9) DEFINING THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Readings: * Dorinda Outram, *The Enlightenment*, 14-62

Diderot excerpt from *The Encyclopedia* & Dumarsais, "Definition of a Philosophe" in *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*, ed. Isaac Kramnick, (NY: Penguin, 1995), 17-23

John Locke, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* in *The Enlightenment: A Sourcebook and Reader*, ed. Paul Hyland et al. (London: Routledge, 1993), 40-45

Marquis de Condorcet, from *The Future Progress of the Human Mind* in *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*, ed. Isaac Kramnick, (NY: Penguin, 1995), 26-38

Week 3: (Sept. 16) POLITICS & THE FORMATION OF SOCIETY

Reading: Richard Ashcraft, "Locke's political philosophy," in *The Cambridge*

Companion to Locke, ed. Vere Chappell (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 226-51

John Locke, from *Two Treatises of Government*, in *Classics of Western Thought*, vol III., ed. Charles Hirschfeld & Edgar Knoebel (NY, 1980), 124-40

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, trans. and ed. Anne M. Cohler, Basia Carolyn Miller and Harold Samuel Stone (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1989), pp. 3-31, 285-295

Week 4: (Sept. 23) GENDER, WRITING, & THE EXOTIC IN ENLIGHTENMENT SOCIETY

Reading: * Françoise de Graffigny, *Letters from a Peruvian Woman* (entire novel)

* Dorinda Outram, *The Enlightenment*, 63-95

* William Storey, Writing History: A Guide for Students, 83-102

*** SHORT PAPER DUE, Friday, Sept. 26 at 5 pm in my Box #5031 on the 5th floor of Humanities; Document analysis

Week 5: (Sept. 30) THEORIZING NEW ECONOMY OF INDUSTRY & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Reading: Selections from Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments & The Wealth of Nations* in Robert Heilbroner, ed. *Teachings from the Worldly Philosophers* (NY: Norton Press, 1996), 55-105

Abbé Guillaume-Thomas Raynal, excerpt from Philosophical and Political History of the Settlements and Trades of the Europeans in the East and West Indies (London, 1779), Book I: 1-3; and excerpt from Book XI in Peter Jimack, ed. A History of the Two Indies (Hampshire, Eng., 2006), 147-62

Week 6: (Oct. 7) THE FOCUS ON RESEARCH: Using the Library

* Storey, Writing History: A Guide for Students, 1-58

We will meet in 362 Memorial Library.

Week 7: (Oct. 14) THE SOCIAL & MORAL MEANING OF BODIES & SOULS

Readings: Julien Offray de la Mettrie, *Machine Man and Other Writings*, trans. and ed. Ann Thomson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,

1996), pp. 3-25

P. J. G. Cabanis, *On the Relations between the Physical and Moral Aspects of Man*, trans. M. D. Saïdi, ed. George Mora (Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981), v-vi, 7-13, 217-44

Ludmilla Jordanova, *Sexual Visions: Images of Gender in Science and Medicine between the Eighteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Madison, WI.: University of Wisconsin Press, 1989), 19-42

Week 8: (Oct. 21) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

*** 2 PAGE PROPOSAL = description of topic, key primary sources, and central questions, due at your meeting with me.

Week 9: (Oct. 28) WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

Sample Student Paper: "The Bitter and the Sweet: Debating Coffee and Imagining Empire in Great Britain, 1650-1700"

* Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*, 59-82

We will have a visit from a Writing Lab Instructor.

*** BIBLIOGRAPHY of primary and secondary sources due Friday, Oct. 31

Week 10: (Nov. 4) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

*** OUTLINE due at your meeting with me.

Week 11: (Nov. 11) RESEARCH & WRITING WEEK

Week 12: (Nov. 18) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS & CLASS: PRESENTATION OF TOPICS & SOURCES

Two sample student introductions

Week 13: (Nov. 25) EXCHANGE OF DRAFTS

*** Rough drafts due TUESDAY, Nov. 25.

Week 14: (Dec. 2) DISCUSSION OF ROUGH DRAFTS

Week 15: (Dec. 9) FINAL PRESENTATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

Three sample student conclusions

**** Final Paper due on TUESDAY, Dec. 9*