

History 891: Enlightenment and Religion  
Fall, 2010

Professor Sorkin  
1:20-3:20 Monday  
5257 Humanities

Office Hours: Monday, 3:45  
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This course explores the relationship between the Enlightenment and religion. Our first session will be devoted to definitions of the Enlightenment in the eighteenth and twenty-first centuries. We will then probe two related issues. First, how did the *philosophes* view religion? We will read such key thinkers as Locke, Pufendorf, Voltaire, Rousseau and Lessing on such critical issues as toleration, natural religion and the relationship between reason and revelation.

We will then shift to ask the less conventional question of the uses theologians or clergy made of the Enlightenment. In this connection we will read thinkers affiliated with movements of religious renewal such as the Anglican Moderate William Warburton, the Reform Catholic Lodovico Muratori and the maskil (Jewish Enlightener) Moses Mendelssohn.

The course will cross national borders (England, France, German states and Habsburg empire) and confessional boundaries (Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism). Our focus will be Western and Central Europe.

The course will be divided into two phases. We will have common readings of primary sources and scholarship for the first seven weeks. These are designed to familiarize you with major issues and approaches. The remaining weeks will be devoted to presentations of research in progress.

The requirements for the course are:

1. A three page evaluation of one of the common readings (due by the beginning of the class when the book is discussed). You should chose a book that is relevant to your anticipated research project.
2. A five page review of a scholarly book (chosen in consultation with the instructor) that is relevant to your research project (due by November 1st) and a ten minute oral report on the book.
3. A twenty-five page double-spaced research paper on a subject to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. In preparation for this paper you will be asked to prepare a prospectus (3-5 pages) and bibliography by November 8th; a first draft of the paper by November 29th; and to give a twenty minute oral report in the concluding weeks of the semester.

Required Readings:

Primary Sources:

Jean Le Rond D'Alembert, Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia of Diderot (Chicago)

John Locke, The Reasonableness of Christianity (Stanford)

John Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration (Buffalo, NY, Prometheus Books)

Samuel Pufendorf, Of the Nature and Qualification of Religion in Reference to Civil Society (Liberty Fund)

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Lessing's Theological Writings (Stanford)

Moses Mendelssohn, Jerusalem, or on Religious Power and Judaism trs. Arkush (Hanover, NH, University Press of New England)

William Warburton, The Alliance between Church and State (Humanities Copy Center)

Lodovico Muratori, The Science of Rational Devotion (Humanities Copy Center)

Secondary Sources:

Ernst Cassirer, The Philosophy of the Enlightenment (Princeton, 1951)

David Sorkin, The Religious Enlightenment: Protestants, Jews and Catholics from London to Vienna (Princeton, 2008)

Required books are available for purchase at UBS and the Humanities Copy Center. Articles are available on-line at the Undergraduate library (listed under Library Reserves for the course).

September 13th

"What is Enlightenment?"

D'Alembert, Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia of Diderot, 3-14, 60-105

James Schmitt ed., What is Enlightenment: Eighteenth-century Answers and Twentieth-century Questions (California, 1996)

Immanuel Kant, "An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?" 58-64.

Moses Mendelssohn, "On the Question: What is Enlightenment?" 53-57.

"What was Enlightenment?"

James E. Bradley & Dale Van Kley, "Introduction," Religion and Politics in Enlightenment Europe (Notre Dame, 2001) 1-17

Jonathan Israel, "Enlightenment! Which Enlightenment," Journal of the History of Ideas 67, 3 (2006) 523-45

Lynn Hunt, "Enlightenment Studies," in Alan Kors ed., Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment 4 vols. (Oxford, 2003) 1:418-30

David Sorkin, "Introduction," in The Religious Enlightenment: Protestants, Jews and Catholics from London to Vienna, 1-21

September 20th

Locke, The Reasonableness of Christianity

Cassirer, "The Dogma of Original Sin and the Problem of Theodicy," in The Philosophy of the Enlightenment, 137-160

H.R. Trevor-Roper, "The Religious Origins of the Enlightenment," in The European Witch-Craze of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries and Other Essays (New York, 1969), 193-236

September 27th

Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration

Samuel Pufendorf, Of the Nature and Qualification of Religion in Reference to Civil Society 11-121

Cassirer, "Tolerance and the Foundation of Natural Religion," The Philosophy of the Enlightenment, 160-182.

Mark Goldie, "The Theory of Religious Intolerance in Restoration England," in Grell, Israel and Tyacke eds., From Persecution to Toleration: The Glorious Revolution and

Religion in England (Oxford, 1991) 331-368.

[Jeffrey R. Collins, "Redeeming the Enlightenment: New Histories of Religious Toleration," Journal of Modern History 81 (September 2009) 607-36]

October 4th No Class!!! Spend the week on your research project

October 11th

Lessing's Theological Writings, 51-106

Rousseau, "Creed of a Savoyard Vicar," Émile

Voltaire, "Sermon of the Fifty"

Cassirer, "Religion and History," in The Philosophy of the Enlightenment, 182-196.

October 18<sup>th</sup>

William Warburton, The Alliance between Church and State

J.G.A. Pocock, "Clergy and Commerce. The Conservative Enlightenment in England," in L'Eta dei Lumi: Studi Storici sul Settecento Europeo in Onore di Franco Venturi (Naples, 1985) 525-562.

David Sorkin, "Brant Broughton, London, Gloucester. William Warburton's 'Heroic Moderation'," in The Religious Enlightenment: Protestants, Jews and Catholics from London to Vienna, 23-65

October 25th

Mendelssohn, Jerusalem

Alexander Altmann, "Introduction," to Jerusalem, 3-28

David Sorkin, "Berlin. Moses Mendelssohn's 'Vital Script'," in The Religious Enlightenment: Protestants, Jews and Catholics from London to Vienna, 167-213

November 1st

Muratori, The Science of Rational Devotion

David Sorkin, "Vienna-Linz. Joseph Eybel's 'Reasonable Doctrine'," & "Toul-Paris-Lyon. Adrien Lamourette's 'Luminous Side of Faith'," in The Religious Enlightenment: Protestants, Jews and Catholics from London to Vienna, 215-259 & 261-309