

## History 891: Enlightenment and Religion

Professor Sorkin  
9:00-11:00 Friday  
5245 Humanities

Office Hours: Thursday, 3:30  
4117 Humanities, 263-1861  
djsorkin@wisc.edu

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 Moses Mendelssohn of the Haskalah (Jewish Enlightenment).

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 March 19th) 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 April 4th; a first draft of the paper by May 2nd; 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 (get master copy from Sorkin)

Lodovico Muratori, The Science of Rational Devotion (photocopy at TechStore)

Secondary Sources:

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

Aside from the required books for purchase (available at UBS), readings are available on-line at the Undergraduate library.

#### February 1st

"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

#### February 8th

Locke, The Reasonableness of Christianity

Henry May, "The Beauties of Balance," in The Enlightenment in America (New York: OUP, 1976) 3-25

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

#### February 15th

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.

#### February 22nd

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.

#### February 29th

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.

March 7th

Mendelssohn, Jerusalem

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

David Sorkin, "Haskalah," in Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment 2:186-89

March 14th

Muratori, The Science of Rational Devotion

Dale Van Kley, "Catholic Conciliar Reform in an Age of Anti-Catholic Revolution: France, Italy, and the Netherlands, 1758-1801," in James E. Bradley & Dale Van Kley eds., Religion and Politics in Enlightenment Europe (Notre Dame, 2001) 46-49, 58-88.

Mario Rosa, "Benedict XIV" in Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment 1:134-36

On-line/Reserve readings:

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

Henry May, "The Beauties of Balance," in The Enlightenment in America (New York: OUP, 1976) 3-25

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

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.

Rousseau, "Creed of a Savoyard Vicar," Émile (Everyman, 1993) 274-308

Voltaire, "Sermon of the Fifty" in Peter Gay ed., Deism: An Anthology (Anvil, 1968) 145-58

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.

James E. Bradley & Dale Van Kley eds., Religion and Politics in Enlightenment Europe (Notre Dame, 2001) 1-17 (Feb. 1); 46-49, 58-88 (March 14th)

Alan Kors ed., Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment 4 vols. (Oxford, 2003)

Lynn Hunt, "Enlightenment Studies," 1:418-30

David Sorkin, "Haskalah," 2:186-89

Mario Rosa, "Benedict XIV" 1:134-36