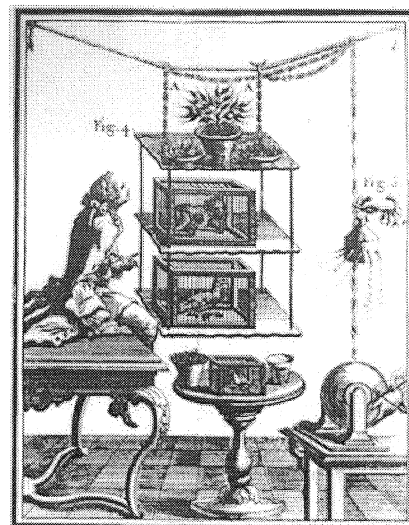


History of Science 324 (spring 2006)
Instructor: Robin Rider ■ 262-2809 ■ rrider@library.wisc.edu

Science in the Enlightenment

Writers of the 18th-century Enlightenment extolled reason as the path to knowledge, and saw in science both a model of reason and a promise of economic and social progress. And these ideas have helped to shape many modern notions of the authority and value of science.

This course will examine important developments within scientific disciplines during the 18th century, as well as the significance of scientific knowledge for Enlightenment thought. We will pay attention to issues of cultural production, discourse and practice, authority and expertise, gender, and biography. The reading list draws from history of science, cultural and intellectual history; students will also have the opportunity to examine original publications of the period.



Course mechanics

Lectures 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. TR – all in 976 Memorial Library (Special Collections seminar room).
Office hours M 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment, 990 Memorial Library.

The Learn@UW site for this course will contain announcements (called “News” in Learn@UW), links to other useful Web sites, and copies of handouts distributed also in paper form.

Discussions during class will give you an opportunity to discuss and understand the readings; they will also carry considerable weight in your final grade. Please prepare for them.

Assigned readings (journal articles, chapters from books) are available in several forms and places.

- The first two weeks’ worth of required readings are already in the Active Reserves collection on the first floor of College Library. Many other of the required readings are in e-reserves, available through MyUW. However, expect some delay in availability at the beginning of term due to the large volume of reserves handled by that office.
- Some readings are available in electronic form (either page images or full electronic text) through various of the Library’s licensed online journals or other resources.

Graduate students may expect additional reading assignments.

Written and oral assignments; grading

For undergraduates:

- Each of you will be expected to lead a 15-minute discussion of the assigned reading(s) **once during the semester**. Based on enrollment, you may be part of a small team leading the discussion rather than doing so solo.
- You will also prepare four short papers due on **9 February, 9 March, 6 April, and 9 May** — see the schedule below. The first is an annotated bibliography; the second is a review of a relevant book-length biography; the third is a short description of an 18th-century book; the fourth is a take-home final. Details on these assignments later.

Grades for undergraduates will be weighted as follows: 10% for the annotated bibliography; 20% for the review of a relevant book-length biography; 20% for the description of an 18th-century book; 20% for discussion and for leading discussion; 30% for the take-home final.

For graduate students:

- You will prepare three short papers due on **9 February, 9 March, and 6 April** — see the schedule below. The first is an annotated bibliography; the second is a review of a relevant book-length biography; the third is a short description of an 18th-century book. Details on these assignments later.
 - Each of you will be expected to lead a 15-minute discussion of the assigned readings **once during the semester**.
 - A 15-page essay, due on **9 May**, on a topic chosen well in advance and in consultation with the instructor. The paper will include treatment of one or more primary sources as well as relevant secondary literature.
- Grades will be weighted as follows: 10% for the annotated bibliography; 20% for the review of a relevant book-length biography; 20% for the description of an 18th-century book; 20% for discussion and for leading discussion; 30% for the final essay.