

Title and Code of Course: Theories of Modernity and the Enlightenment / ERPB-MAD 2270

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| Credit Point Value: 6 | Number of Lessons per Week: 2 | Type of Course: Seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Method of Evaluation: Oral Examination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Class Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Course Description:

This lecture course is aimed at MA level students (or equivalent), with fairly good English competence. The course offers a survey of critical thought on a selection of key issues of modernity and the Enlightenment from the late 17th century to the present. Lectures will be complemented by classroom discussion of selected texts, mainly from the fields of literature, aesthetics, and philosophy. The overall aim of this course is to familiarize students with diverse theoretical approaches to the Enlightenment and to highlight the complex historicity of modern concepts and cultural phenomena.

Requirements:

Students should read the assigned texts and participate in classroom discussions. At the end of the course, they are offered a choice between submitting a research essay on one of the theoretical issues discussed in class OR an oral examination based on their own selection of ten texts assigned for the course.

Bibliography:

Immanuel Kant: "An Answer to the Question, What Is Enlightenment?"
Michel Foucault: "What Is Enlightenment?"
Joseph Addison and Richard Steele: *The Spectator* no. 10; no. 69
Thomas Sprat: *The History of the Royal Society of London* (excerpts)
David Hume: *A Treatise of Human Nature* (Introduction; Book I, Part 4, Section 6 ("Of Personal Identity"), Section 7 ("Conclusion to This Book"))
Adam Smith: *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (excerpts)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *The Confessions* (from Book I)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *Essay on the Origin of Languages* (chapters 2-5)
Mary Wollstonecraft: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
Hugh Blair: *A Critical Dissertation on the Poems of Ossian* (excerpts)
Walter Scott: *Waverley* ("A Postscript, which should have been a Preface")
S. T. Coleridge: *Essays on Genial Criticism* (excerpt); *Biographia Literaria* (Ch 13)
Percy Bysshe Shelley: *The Defense of Poetry*
Walter Pater: "Conclusion" to *The Renaissance*
Oscar Wilde: *The Decay of Lying* (excerpts)
William Morris: *News from Nowhere* – Chapter XXXII ("The Feast's Beginning – The End")