

**The Georgia Institute of Technology  
School of History, Technology, and Society  
HTS 4031 Seminar in European History  
The Enlightenment and Its Enemies**

Course Requirements

This is a history seminar. That means that you are responsible for perfect attendance, a great deal of reading, vigorous class participation, and a research paper at the end.

The purpose of this class is threefold: First, you will become experts on the Enlightenment, an ongoing and highly contested political and spiritual project that is the heart of modernity. Second, you will hone your public speaking skills in weekly discussion and debate. Third, you will develop your research and writing skills by completing a major project: a 20-30 page paper.

Class Discussion: 50%

Research paper: 50%

Notes on Reading

The following required books are at Engineer's Bookstore:  
Peter Gay, *The Enlightenment: The Rise of Modern Paganism*.  
Isaac Kramnick, ed., *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*.  
Darrin McMahon, *Enemies of the Enlightenment*.  
Dorinda Outram, *The Enlightenment*.  
Beaumarchais, *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Other readings marked with asterisks will be available in the reading room for you to photocopy and/or at online reserves. You should take reading notes and bring both the notes and the assigned texts to class with you each day prepared to discuss what you have learned.

Notes on Research

The ideal research paper is of publishable length and quality. I expect students to follow the Chicago Manual of Style, which you can consult in any library or on line. I would like you to be creative and pursue your own interests, but some suggestions for topics are:

1. Focus on a single author, say, Voltaire or Rousseau, about whom there are numerous good books and articles.
2. Or focus on a single idea - say equality or God - which would allow you to treat several authors.
3. Or focus on a particular historiographical debate - say Adorno's critique of Enlightenment values, the association of Rousseau with totalitarianism, or Roy Porter's argument for the primacy of the English Enlightenment.

During the course you will be introduced to all of the above topics and others as well. It is up to you to design a research project that will be satisfying and successful.

You are encouraged through the Georgia Tech Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program to seek venues to present and publish your work. For more information see their site at <http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu/institute-wide.php>. If you

would like to continue research in this vein, you are also encouraged to apply for a PURA grant. See <http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu/funding.php>.

## Reading Schedule

### 1. ENLIGHTENMENT

- 8/23:        Introduction  
Read Peter Gay over the next two weeks in addition to other assignments.
- 8/30        Doubting  
\*Galileo, *Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina*.  
Kramnick, Introduction and 1-73.
- 9/6         Darkness  
\*Robert Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre*, chs. 1,2.
- 9/13        The Mechanical Philosophy  
Kramnick, pp. 181-202, 209-222.  
\*Voltaire, *Philosophical Dictionary* (1764), "Love."  
\*Julien Offray de La Mettrie, *Man A Machine*.
- 9/20        Liberty  
Kramnick, 75-174.  
\*Roger Pearson, *Voltaire Almighty*, 283-319.
- 9/27        Equality  
Kramnick, 395-480  
Pierre-Agustin Caron de Beaumarchais, *The Marriage of Figaro*.
- 10/4        Fraternity  
Kramnick, 560-670  
\*Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*, 53-123.
- 10/11       Film: *Dangerous Liaisons*
- 10/18       Homo Economicus  
Kramnick, 242-254, 480-515.  
\*Roy Porter, *Flesh in the Age of Reason*, 130-147.  
\*Thomas Malthus, *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, selections.

### 2. COUNTER-ENLIGHTENMENT

- 10/25       Rousseau  
Kramnick, 363-378.  
Carol Blum, *Rousseau and the Republic of Virtue*, 23-92.  
Simon Schama, *Citizens*, 145-162.
- 11/1        The Political and Religious Right  
Darrin McMahon, *Enemies of the Enlightenment*.  
\*William Perry et. al., eds., *Sources of the Western Tradition*, Sixth Edition, vol. II, 146-156.
- 11/8        Enlightenment and Totalitarianism  
Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*.  
\*J.R. Talmon, *Origins of Totalitarian Democracy*, selections at <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/Dept/PS/Finley/PS425/reading/Talmon.html>

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

- 11/15      Critical Summary and Debate  
Dorinda Outram, *The Enlightenment*.
- 11/22      Where to from Here?  
\*Keith Michael Baker and Peter Hanns Reill, eds., *What's Left of Enlightenment?*, selections.
- 11/29      Discussion of papers.
- 12/6      Discussion of papers.  
**Papers due.**

#### Research Schedule

- 10/18      First office meeting by date.
- 11/8      Thesis and bibliography due.
- 11/15      Thesis and bibliography returned.
- 11/22      Rough draft due.
- 11/29      Rough draft returned. Second office meeting by date.
- 12/6      Final draft due.