PHIL3003: History of 18TH Century Philosophy

Approaches to Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century European Philosophy

Carleton University

Winter 2013, Tues & Thurs, 11:30-1:00, 409 Southam Hall

Instructor: Sarah Marquardt
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Course Description:

What was the Enlightenment? This phenomenon operated on both sides of the Atlantic from approximately the 1680s to the 1790s and encompassed both the American and the French Revolutions. Although it has been defined in numerous ways by contemporary scholars, and even by eighteenth-century enlighteners themselves, we can discern a shared commitment among them to “betering humanity in this world through a fundamental, revolutionary discarding of the ideas, habits, and traditions of the past,” according to Jonathan Israel. In this course, we will examine significant contributions to this ameliorating enterprise, particularly in the works of John Locke, Mary Astell, David Hume, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Mary Wollstonecraft and Immanuel Kant. We will consider their respective arguments concerning such matters as the legitimate sources of knowledge and authority, the nature of human equality, freedom, individual rights, women’s rights, progress and good government. Furthermore, we will examine the new conceptions of human nature and human excellence that underpinned their arguments. In so doing, we will adopt a historical perspective by taking the works of these thinkers to be responses to problems, whether social, moral, scientific, political or epistemological, that they perceived in the world around them.

We begin with an overview of definitions of the Enlightenment, situating these in relation to the history of eighteenth-century philosophy. We then take a look at that repository of Enlightenment values: Diderot and d’Alembert’s 1751 *Encyclopedia*, which was deeply influenced by John Locke’s empiricist epistemology. Following this, we return to the early days of the Enlightenment, examining the radical epistemological and political innovations in the work of John Locke, which profoundly influenced reform-minded Enlightenment thinkers. Following this, we continue our intellectual journey through Berkeley, Hume, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft and finally Kant.

Course Goals:

1) To gain an understanding of key thinkers and concepts of the Enlightenment, also called ‘the long eighteenth century’

2) To understand the historical origins and development of some key modern Western values (as well as some early criticism of these values, particularly in Astell, Rousseau and Wollstonecraft)

3) To learn how to read philosophy in historical perspective. To this end, students will be given guidelines on reading and writing in a historically sensitive manner, and lectures will aim to situate texts in historical social, political and intellectual contexts.
**Requirements and Grading:** The final grade will be comprised of four components: An in-class presentation (15%), a 4-5 page paper due at midterm (20%), an 8-10 page paper due at the end of term (45%); 20% for participation (details of the participation grade will be explained in class). We will discuss together, in class, the standards for evaluating your written and oral work. I will also give you guidelines for doing your oral presentation (these will likely begin in Week 3).

**Texts:**

**Please note:** Primary source readings, unless otherwise noted in the reading schedule, are in the “Past Masters” database of the university library. To access the list of titles, use the preceding hyperlink and then sign in, OR, select “Databases” from the library’s homepage, and then select “P.” Past Masters is second on the list. Once in the database, select “Titles” in the upper left corner of the page, and a list of authors will appear. I will indicate which ones to select in the reading schedule. I have also facilitated your access to this database by hyperlinking many of our readings.

You may use your laptop (or tablet, etc.) in class in order to follow the readings during class, **provided that you do not use it for any purpose other than following readings!** Alternatively, you may print out the reading selection for each class and bring it with you.

For those who prefer an actual book, a copy of each major text will be on 24 hour reserve at the library, or you may purchase your own copies relatively cheaply at bookfinder or amazon.ca, or amazon.com. If you decide to buy, you can consult me about editions, but you should probably just go for the cheapest option.

**List of main texts:**

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1689)
John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (1689, published anonymously)
Mary Astell, *Some Reflections Upon Marriage* (1700)
David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (1748)
David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles ofMorals* (1751)
David Hume, *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary* (1758)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts* (1750)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men* (1754)
Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)
Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment? (1784);” *Metaphysics ofMorals* (1797); “Perpetual Peace”(1795)

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments: Please note, I reserve the right to amend this schedule if necessary (with notice).**

**Week 1: January 8 & 10: The Spirit of Enlightenment**

**Tues:** Introductory lecture on the Enlightenment

**Reading:** Class handout.
Thurs: Diderot & d’Alembert’s *Encyclopedia* (1751): the most significant intellectual event of the Enlightenment?

**Readings:**

1. D’Alembert’s “Preliminary Discourse,” [here](#) (first 13 paragraphs); Diderot’s entry ‘encyclopedia’ and Du Marsais’s entry ‘philosopher’. See also Jaucourt’s entry ‘femme (wife)’ and under ‘F’ titles notice the high number of entries on women (femme). Finally, have a look at the Encyclopedia’s [map of knowledge](#).

2. Margaret C. Jacob, “Introduction” to *The Enlightenment: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2001) (on WebCT in folder “Readings on Enlightenment”)

3. Margaret C. Jacob’s and Dorinda Outram’s respective Enlightenment chronologies (on WebCT, “Readings on Enlightenment” folder)

**Week 2: January 15 & 17: Locke’s empiricist epistemology**

**Tues: Locke’s critique of innate ideas**

**Readings:**

1. J.R. Milton, “Locke’s life and times” (WebCT, In “Locke Readings” folder)

2. Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1689) [Locke: Philosophical Works](#)

3. “Epistle to the Reader,” Book 1, ch. 1 (hereafter 1.1) Essay I.2 (sections 1-5); 1.3, (sections 1-13); 1.4 (sections 7-13, 21-25)

**Thurs: Locke’s “new way of ideas”**

**Readings:** *Essay* 2.1-3; 2.7-12; 2.29-33; 4.1; 4.3 (sections 1-6); 4.4-5

**Week 3: January 22 & 34: Locke and the problem of gender equality in Two Treatises of Government**

**Tues: Readings:**

1. *Two Treatises of Government* (published anonymously in 1689): “Preface to the reader”; First Treatise, Chapters 1-4 (up to end of section 30); Second Treatise, Chapters 1-4;


**Thurs: Mary Astell in response to Locke**

**Readings:**

1. Mary Astell, *Some Reflections Upon Marriage* (1700)

**Week 4: January 29 & 31: Locke’s *Two Treatises of Government* and the problem of the natural equality of the human species**

**Tues: delineating the problem of natural human equality in Locke**

**Readings:**
1. Jeremy Waldron on “Species and the Shape of Equality,” (titled Waldron #1 in “Locke Readings” on WebCT)
2. *Two Treatises*: same Locke readings as Week 3

**Thurs: A resolution to the problem of human equality?**

**Readings:**
1. Excerpt # 2 from Waldron, *God, Locke and Equality* (Waldron #2 in “Locke Readings” on WebCT)
2. *Essay*, 1.1 revisited; Second Treatise, sections 4-6 revisited:

Transition from Locke to Hume via Berkeley: some remarks on Berkeley’s immaterialism; its moral and political implications

**Week 5: February 5 & 7: Introduction to David Hume’s life and his Enlightenment thought**

**Tues: Hume’s autobiography, Adam Smith on Hume, and introduction to An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding**

**Readings:**
1. David Hume, “*My Own Life*;” Adam Smith, “*Letter to William Strahan*” (on Hume’s last illness and death: letter 178)
2. Stephen Buckle, *Hume’s Enlightenment Tract: The Unity and Purpose of An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*, Part One, Ch. 2: “Circumstances and Aim” pp.27-47, and “Part Two; The Argument,” Section 1
   * Buckle’s book is an ebook in the library. It is also on 24 hour reserve in the library

**Thurs: Hume on Ideas in An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding**

**Readings:**
Week 6: February 12 & 14: Hume’s Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals (Second Enquiry)

Tues: Reason and Sentiment in Hume, Smith and Mandeville

Readings:
2. Adam Smith, Theory of Moral Sentiments (“Of Sympathy”)

Thurs: Hume on Justice and Politics

Readings:

Assignment # 1 due: Short paper of 4 – 5 pages. Details TBA

Week 7: BREAK

Week 8: February 26 & 28: Hume’s Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals continued

Tues. Hume on Human Nature and Virtue

Readings:

Thurs: Readings:
1. Hume, Second Enquiry Ch.7, “Of Qualities immediately agreeable to Ourselves;” Ch. 8, “Of Qualities immediately agreeable to Others;” Ch. 9 “Conclusion;” Appendix 4, “Of some Verbal Disputes”
Week 9: March 5 & 7: Hume and Rousseau on the Sciences and Arts (and reflections on gender continued)

Tues: Readings:

Thurs: Introduction to Rousseau and his Discourses
Readings:
1. Rousseau, *Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts* (1750); Title page, Foreword, Preface, Introduction, Part One and Part Two

Week 10: March 12 & 14: Rousseau’s discourse on inequality

Tues: Readings:
1. Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men* (1754)
   Title page, Preface, Introduction & Part One

Thurs: Readings:
1. Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men* Part Two
2. Feminist critiques of Rousseau (posted on WebCT in “Rousseau” folder)

Week 11: March 19 & 21: Mary Wollstonecraft’s 18th century Feminism

Tues. Readings:
1. Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789)
2. Olympe de Gouges, *Declaration of the Rights of Woman* (1791)

Thurs: Wollstonecraft continued
Readings:
1. Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) Chapter 4, “Observations on the State of Degradation to which Woman is Reduced by Various Causes;” Chapter 6, “The Effect which an Early Association of Ideas Has upon the Character”

Week 12: March 26 & 28: Immanuel Kant’s Political Thought

Tues. Kant: Reading: “*What is Enlightenment?*” (1784)
Thurs. Kant: Readings:
1. “On the common saying: That may be correct in theory, but it is of no use in practice” (1793) (on WebCT in “Kant” folder)

**Week 13: April 2 & 4: Kant’s Doctrine of Human Rights and Duties**

**Tues. Readings:**
1. Kant, *The metaphysics of morals* (1797), “Preface” and “Introduction to the metaphysics of morals” (on WebCT in “Kant” folder)

**Thurs. Reading:** Kant, *The metaphysics of morals* “Introduction to the doctrine of right;” Part 1, Chapter I; Part 1, Chapter 2 (up to 6:289) (on WebCT in “Kant” folder)

**Week 14: April 9th: Kant on government**

**Tues. Reading:** *Perpetual Peace* (1795): an ideal of world government (also on WebCT in “Kant” folder).

Final 8-10 page paper due April 27 (via WebCT)
Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:
- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following in the lower right corner of the cover sheet: student name, student number, course number and section instructor’s name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by 4:15 on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day’s date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar’s Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of ‘plagiarism’ as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aids or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars/ugrad/current/regulations/acadregu14.html#14.3)

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation.

Important Dates:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Classes start (after Orientation events).</td>
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<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.</td>
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<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.</td>
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<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>University Day — no classes.</td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day — university closed.</td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.</td>
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<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.</td>
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<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).</td>
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<td>Dec. 4-5</td>
<td>No classes take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.</td>
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<td>Dec. 6-19</td>
<td>Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.</td>
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<td>Dec. 19</td>
<td>Take-home exams are due.</td>
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<td>Jan. 7</td>
<td>Winter term classes begin.</td>
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<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.</td>
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<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.</td>
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<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>Family Day – university closed</td>
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<td>Feb. 18-22</td>
<td>Winter Break, classes suspended.</td>
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<td>Mar. 27</td>
<td>Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.</td>
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<td>Mar. 29</td>
<td>Good Friday – university closed</td>
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<td>Apr. 10</td>
<td>Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 10</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).</td>
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<td>Apr. 11-12</td>
<td>No classes take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 13-27</td>
<td>Final Examinations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 27</td>
<td>Take-home exams are due.</td>
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Addresses:

Department of Philosophy: 3AA6 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar’s Office: 300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre: 3A46 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Paul Menton Centre: 500 University Centre www.carleton.ca PMC 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service: 8th Floor, Library www.carleton.ca/wts 520-6632
MacOdrum Library http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735