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Spring 2004
M. W. 1:10-2:30 pm
Office Hours: W. 9-12
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COL 246
Senior Colloquium

Enlightenment's Shadow

Course Description

In this final colloquium we will explore the 19th century in an effort to link the prior three colloquia to the modern era (where we began and, by force of circumstance, end). We will begin by exploring the goals and logic of the "Enlightenment Project" and then examine the ways that the enlightenment's shadow follows this project in both expected and surprising ways. We will follow two parallel trajectories of thought through the 19th century: the rise of science, technology and bureaucracy as exemplified in the "rational" project of the positivists; and the metaphysical investigation into the nature of the soul and the quest for transcendent meaning as in the "irrational" works of the Romantics, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche. Our goal will be to examine the ways that these trends intersect, overlap and diverge in an effort to explore the ramifications of these ideas over time and space (for example, the repercussions of the Enlightenment project on European colonization and the treatment of colonized peoples or the effects of doctrines of progress on the industrialization of Europe).

Required Reading:

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Dostoevsky, "The Dream of the Ridiculous Man" in *Notes from Underground*
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust* pt. I and II
Nikolai Gogol, *Dead Souls*
Joris-Karl Huysmans, *Against Nature*
Soren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*
Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Émile Zola, *Thérèse Raquin*

Recommended Reading

John Merriman, *Modern Europe*

Course Outline

WEEK ONE

Wed., January 21 – Thesis Presentations

WEEK TWO

Mon., January 26 – **Hand Outs:** Diderot, *Encyclopedia* (1713-1784); Sade, *Philosophy in the Bedroom* (1795); Coleridge, “Aeolian Harp” (1795), “Ancient Mariner” (1797-98), “Kubla Khan” (1798); Wordsworth, “The Thorn” (1798)

Wed., January 28– Thesis Presentations

WEEK THREE

Mon., February 2 – **Hand Out:** G.W. F. Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807)

Wed., February 4 – Thesis Presentations

WEEK FOUR

Mon., February 9 –Goethe, *Faust* pt. I and II (1808, 1832)

Wed., February 11 – Thesis Presentations

WEEK FIVE

Mon., February 16– Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)

Wed., February 18 – Thesis Presentations

WEEK SIX

Mon., February 23 – Gogol, *Dead Souls* (1836)

Wed., February 25 – Thesis Presentations

WEEK SEVEN

Mon., March 1– Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* (1843)

Wed., March 3 – Thesis Presentations

SPRING BREAK

WEEK EIGHT

Mon., March 22 – Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848); Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener” (1853)

Wed., March 24 – Thesis Presentations

WEEK NINE

Mon., March 29 – Darwin, from *Origin of Species* (1859, 1872); Gobineau, *Essai sur L'inegalite des races humaines* (1853 - 55); Dostoevsky, “Dream of the Ridiculous Man” (1877)

Wed., March 31 – Zola, *Thérèse Raquin* (1867)

WEEK TEN

Mon., April 5 – Huysmans, *Against Nature* (1884)

Reading:

Wed., April 7 – **NO CLASS**

Reading:

WEEK ELEVEN

Mon., April 12 – **NO CLASS**

Reading:

SENIOR THESES DUE APRIL 13

Wed., April 14 – **NO CLASS**

WEEK TWELVE

Mon., April 19 – Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (1883-1885)

Reading:

Wed., April 21 – Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (1883-1885)

WEEK THIRTEEN

Mon., April 26 – Ibsen, “Enemy of the People” (1882) or “Hedda Gabler” (1890)

Wed., April 28 – Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (1899, 1902)

Reading:

WEEK FOURTEEN

Mon., May 3 – open date