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Office Hours: Boger 317, M/W 3-4pm and by appointment.

### **Course Description**

The period from 1700 to 1900 is one of the most culturally eventful in the history of western culture. An exhaustive account is impossible to compile and would, in any case, be impossible to comprehend. So we will pursue just a few narrative threads, with the awareness that there are countless others we are neglecting. Our narrative will be one of rise and fall. Our period begins with the ascension of reason to the seat of sovereignty in human nature – reigning over will and world, illuminating what was once obscure. Our period ends with reason deposed and dispossessed of her authority by the very forces of nature that she had previously brought to light. We will see Enlightenment thinkers celebrate human self-determination in both thought and deed: in our ability to think for ourselves, to make up our own minds, and in our ability to act on principle, not just out of impulse, habit, or self-interest. Subsequent thinkers will question this Enlightenment vision. They will challenge the idea that individuals are independent and self-subsistent; they will present the rational Enlightenment ideal as hollow and unsatisfying, even monstrous; and, finally, they will expose it as a mere facade concealing a roiling chaos of fundamentally non-rational and even irrational forces. Ironically, this opposition grows out of the very institutions and intellectual practices of dispassionate, rigorous, and scientific inquiry that the Enlightenment championed. And this mode of “immanent critique” will set the paradigm for intellectual opposition in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: namely, exploding an ideology from within – precipitating its self-destruction by holding strictly it to its own fundamental principles.

### **Texts**

You must come to class with a physical copy of the text, in the required edition. Order the Course Reader through Moodle. All other required texts are available at RJ Julia. Please buy them there – or at least from some independent bookshop, e.g. using [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org) or [biblio.com](http://biblio.com). Micro-grants are available to all who need them, just send me an email. OPTIONAL readings are on Moodle.

### **Engagement**

We gather to discuss texts because the content of the course, which becomes our knowledge, is generated in dialogue with one another. We are not exchanging book reports or amassing the various treasures each of us has gathered on a textual Easter-egg hunt. We are (or strive to be) making meaning together using the text as a shared intellectual tool and point of orientation. I expect your preparation for class and your engagement in discussion to reflect this. Annotate your text so you can locate passages readily. Take notes with organizing headings (of themes, tropes, whatever) and page references. And, above all, come with questions and work to put your puzzlement into words.

### **Papers**

There will be three required papers, to be submitted as .docx files via email by 5pm on the due date. Extensions of up to one week will be granted, no questions asked, provided (i) the request is made more than 24 hours in advance of the deadline and (ii) a new due date is provided. I strongly encourage you to discuss paper topics with me in office hours.

## SYLLABUS

M	9/5	Pope, <i>An Essay on Man</i> , Epistles I and II (1733)	
W	9/7	Pope, <i>An Essay on Man</i> , Epistles III and IV (1734)	
M	9/12	Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> (1759) Voltaire, Preface to “Poem on the Lisbon Disaster” (1756) Voltaire, “Poem on the Lisbon Disaster” (1756)	
W	9/14	Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> (1762)	CR
M	9/19	Kant, <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> I (1785)	CR
W	9/21	Kant, <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> II	CR
M	9/26	French Revolution – Rights... Natural, Civil, Political, Universal (c. 1787-1789)	CR
W	9/28	French Revolution – Oh, right’s... Jews and Women (c. 1789-1792) Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (1792)	CR CR
<b>Th</b>	<b>9/29</b>	<b>MASTER CLASS with Rafeeq Hasan (Amberst):</b> <b>“Kant on Rights and Revolution”</b>	
M	10/3	Terror and Tyranny: Robespierre (1793-1794) and Napoleon (1799-1815)	CR
W	10/5	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> , “Mastery and Slavery” (1806)	CR
<b>F</b>	<b>10/7</b>	<b>First Paper Due, 5pm</b>	
M	10/10	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> , “Mastery and Slavery” (1806)	CR
W	10/12	Buck-Morss, “Hegel and Haiti” (2000) Abolitionist Documents French Revolution and the Colonies {Tocqueville, Writings on Slavery and Colonialism} {Duras, <i>Ourika</i> }	CR CR CR Optional: Moodle Optional: Moodle
M	10/17	Goethe, <i>Faust</i> , part one, lines 1-2604	
W	10/19	Goethe, <i>Faust</i> , part one, lines 2605-4612	

<del>M</del>	<del>10/24</del>	FALL BREAK	
W	10/26	De Staël, "Of Classical and Romantic Poetry"	CR
		Coleridge, "The Ancient Mariner" (1800)	Norton <i>Frankenstein</i> , 184-203
		Wordsworth, "The World Is Too Much with Us" (1802)	CR
		Byron, "Written after swimming from Sestos to Abydos" (1812)	CR
		P.B. Shelley, "Mutability" (1816)	CR
		P.B. Shelley, "Ozymandias" (1818)	CR
		Keats, "When I have fears that I may cease to be" (1818)	CR
M	10/31	M.W. Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> , volumes 1 and 2	
W	11/02	M.W. Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> , volume 3	
M	11/7	Marx, "On James Mill"	CR
		Marx, <i>Grundrisse</i> , Introduction (A), 1 and 2	CR
W	11/9	Marx, <i>Capital</i> , vol. 1, selections from chs 1. "The Commodity", 2. "Exchange", 3. "Money", 4. "The General Formula for Capital", 6. "The Purchase and Sale of Labor Power", 7. "The Production of Surplus Value", and 8. "Constant and Variable Capital"	
M	11/14	T.H. Huxley, "The Darwinian Hypothesis"	CR
		Huxley's debate with Wilberforce	CR
Tu	11/15	Rei Terada (UC-Irvine) "Metaracial Logic: Hegel, Antiracism, Political Identity" <i>Downey 113</i> , 4:30	
W	11/16	Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals</i> Essay 1	CR
<b>F</b>	<b>11/18</b>	<b>Second Paper Due, 5pm</b>	
M	11/21	Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals</i> Essay 2	CR
<del>11/23</del>		THANKSGIVING BREAK	
M	11/28	Balzac, <i>Avant-propos</i> to <i>The Human Comedy</i>	CR
		Balzac, <i>Père Goriot</i> , parts 1 and 2	
W	11/30	Balzac, <i>Père Goriot</i> , parts 3 and 4	
M	12/5	Poe, "The Man of the Crowd"	CR
		Baudelaire, "The Painter of Modern Life"	CR
		Baudelaire, selected poems	CR
W	12/7	Le Bon, <i>The Crowd</i> , chapters 1-3	CR
<b>W</b>	<b>12/14</b>	<b>Final Paper Due 5pm</b>	