

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
History 2704E Enlightenment in the Atlantic World

2008/2009

Class meets: Monday 9:30-10:20 and Wednesday 9:30-11:30, W112

Dr. Nina Reid-Maroney

Office: A305

Telephone extension 358

nreidmar@huron.uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tues. and Thursday, 1:00-2:30

and other times by appointment

Course description and objectives:

2704E is a survey of the Enlightenment—a complex of intellectual, social, cultural and political movements and ideas that held sway through much of the Atlantic world in the long eighteenth century. The Enlightenment was centred on rational inquiry, on a disciplined approach to understanding nature, nature’s God, and human institutions, and on a deep optimism regarding the possibilities of human enquiry. In the introduction to the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment, Alan Kors reminds us that “we are all [Enlightenment’s], heirs, in diverse ways, and everything that we associate with the Enlightenment, positively, negatively, or simply analytically, remains of profound importance in the history of our path to the present and our present self.” Our course explores the people and ideas of the Enlightenment, and gives fresh consideration to an old question: what is “the Enlightenment” and why does it matter to us now?

The class will combine lectures with student-led discussion of the assigned reading and of your own research projects. The first term is a broad overview of Enlightenment authors and ideas, and the second term is more narrowly focused on the Enlightenment and as transatlantic movement. By the end of the course, you will:

1. Be familiar with a range Enlightenment texts and authors (both well-known and lesser-known)
2. Understand Enlightenment in its national contexts, and as a trans-national, trans-Atlantic movement
3. Be familiar with major debates in Enlightenment historiography
4. Be able to find and analyze related primary sources and other research materials
5. Articulate your own views, both in class and in written work, on the thematic debates that frame the course material.

Judgment travels old and beaten roads—Reason explores, discovers and cuts out new roads, founded upon a minute and extensive knowledge of the country through which they are to pass.

---Benjamin Rush, *Lectures on the Mind*, delivered at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, Philadelphia, c. 1790

Assignments and Assessment

Participation in class discussions (described in more detail below)	20%
Research packet (due October 22)	10%
First Term Essay (due November 26)	10%
Research paper (due April 1)	30%
Final Exam	30%

Detailed descriptions of the written assignments are found on a separate handout.

Class discussion in weekly tutorials is one of the most important components of the course, and for this reason counts as 20% of your final grade. Your grade will be based on attendance (5%), informed participation throughout the year (10%), and your leading of one tutorial discussion (5%). As part of your regular participation, you may be asked to contribute brief written assessments of the assigned reading. These will be prepared in class time and will not be graded separately. You will also be required to discuss your research papers in progress in the second term. A schedule for leading discussion will be established during the first few weeks of class.

Required Reading:

Dorinda Outram, The Enlightenment

Robert Ferguson, The American Enlightenment

Elaine Breslaw, The Portable Enlightenment Reader

All three texts are available from the UWO Bookstore.

If we take in our hand any volume of divinity or school metaphysics, for instance, let us ask, Does it contain any abstract reasoning concerning quantity or number? No. Does it contain any experimental reasoning concerning matter of fact and existence? No. Commit it then to the flames, for it can contain nothing but sophistry and illusion. -- David Hume, Enquiry Concerning Hume Understanding (1748)

He was in knowledge a walking library. He knew a great deal of many, and a little of all subjects. His knowledge was derived from books that few people read, and that many people never heard of. This was owing to a peculiar circumstance. He lived next door to a pastry Cook at Montrose in Scotland, who used to import old books from London by the barrel, to put their leaves under his pies. Before he tore them up, he permitted Dr. Nesbet to look over them, and to take such as he wanted at a trifling price for his own use. These books the doctor read, and from them extracted a great deal of his rare and uncommon knowledge.

----Benjamin Rush on the death of Charles Nesbet, President of Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA)

Class Schedule:

Sept. 8-10 Read: Kramnick, <u>Portable Enlightenment Reader</u> part one	Defining Enlightenment
Sept. 15-17 Read: Outram, 1	Historians and Enlightenment
Sept. 22-24 Read: Kramnick, p. 39-47; 75-89	17 th -century Background
Sept. 29-Oct. 1 Read: Outram, 7	Enlightened Science and the Natural World I
Oct. 6-8 Kramnick, 48-74	Enlightened Science and the Natural World II
October 15 Read: Outram, 2	Social Context
October 20-22 (No new reading)	Discussion of research (research packets due on Oct. 22)
October 27-29 Read: Kramnick, 351-387	Ancients, Moderns and the Idea of Progress
November 3-5 Read: Kramnick, 181-208	Science of Humanity
Nov. 10-12 Read: Read: Outram, 3 Kramnick, 395-430	Science of Government
Nov. 17-19 Read: Outram, 8	Science of Government
Nov. 24-26 (no new reading)	Of Nature and of Nature's God (essay due Nov. 26)
Dec. 1-3 Read: Kramnick, 96-115	Religion
January 5-7 Read: Outram, 4	Atlantic Crossings

January 12-14 Read: Outram, 5	Race and Slavery
Jan. 19-21 Read: Kramnick, selected	Abolition
Jan. 26-28 Outram, 6	Women and Enlightened Science
Feb. 2-4 Kramnick, selected	Women and Enlightened Culture
Feb. 9-11 Begin Ferguson, <u>The American Enlightenment</u>	Revolution and Enlightenment
Feb. 16-18 Read: Ferguson	In class Film Festival
March 2-4 Read: Ferguson	American Enlightenment
March 9-11 Finish Ferguson	Discussion of research in progress
March 16-18 (No new reading)	The Problem of the American Enlightenment
March 23-25 Outram, 9	Enlightenment and Its Limits
March 30-April 1 (no new reading)	Taking Stock (Research Essay due April 1)
April 6-8 (no new reading)	Review for final exam

Departmental Late Policy:

1. All essays are to be typed, double-spaced on substantial white paper. Scholarly form, as outlined by the instructor, is to be followed.
2. Lateness will be penalized as follows:
First day late - **3** marks deduction
Each subsequent calendar day late - **2** marks per day deduction

3. Third and fourth year seminars will be penalized for lateness at the rate of half a grade (5 percent) per day.
4. No paper or seminar will be accepted if it is more than seven calendar days late.
5. Mitigating circumstances, if they arise, must be discussed with the instructor before the submission date.
6. Medical certificates must be signed by a doctor and must specify the period during which the student was unable to perform academic work.

Medical Absences

For work representing 10% or more of the overall grade for the course, a student must present documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Huron students should take their medical documentation to the Academic Counsellor, Academic Services Centre at Huron University College, together with a Request for Relief specifying the nature of the accommodation requested. Documentation for non-Huron students must be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Faculty Dean's office. The request and documentation will be assessed and appropriate accommodation will be determined by the Dean's office in consultation with the instructor(s.) Academic accommodation will be granted ONLY where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities.

The UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC)

(https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) and Request for Relief (<http://www.huronuc.ca/pdf/AcademicCounsellingRequestforReliefFormMar08.pdf>) are available at the Student Centre Website

(<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>), the Huron University College Academic Counselling website

(http://www.huronuc.ca/faculty_arts_social_science/academic_counselling/) or from the Academic Services Centre at Huron.

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited, to laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during the final examination for the course.

Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words.

Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> .

Statement on Academic Offences:

Plagiarism is an academic offence and will be treated as such. Students who are in doubt as to the nature of this offence should consult their instructor, Department Chair or the Dean, as well as the *Huron University College Statement on Plagiarism*, available at the reference desk in the HUC Library and at

<http://www.huronuc.on.ca/pdf/FASSonPlagiarism.pdf>. In addition, students may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available at the Reference Desk in the HUC Library. Information about these resources can be found at:

http://www.huronuc.ca/library/research_guides_and_handouts/.

Support Services:

Students in the Department of History requiring academic counselling concerning courses and modules in History should see Dr. Jun Fang, Chair, Department of History.

Other academic services such as academic counselling, community-based learning, career development, writing services, cross-cultural services, international opportunities are available through the Academic Services Centre: West Wing, Huron University College, and http://huronuc.ca/faculty_arts_social_science/academic_counselling/