

**HUMANITIES 513
(SPRING SEMESTER, 2009)**

**THE MODERN WORLD:
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY INTRODUCTION**

This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the ideas and creative works that have contributed to making the modern world. Specifically, we study the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and consider outstanding works of science, philosophy, art, and literature in that period. This was the age of Newton, Voltaire, Diderot, Dickens, Marx, and Darwin. It was the age of the Enlightenment, of political and industrial revolutions, and of the rise of Romanticism. It gave us our belief in science and progress, our experience of modern technology and social change, and our ideas about the role of the artist and the creative thinker in modern society.

Classes:

Lectures: Monday & Wednesdays 10:10-11, PCAC A218.

Instructors:

- Section A (Gen. Ed. credit, group 6): **Eleanor Hight**, Art History, meets in PCAC A204
- Section B (Gen. Ed. credit, group 8): **Petar Ramadanovic**, English Lit., meets in HS 140
- Section C (Gen. Ed. credit, group 4): **Christian Peterson**, History, meets in Pett. G 02
- Section D (Gen. Ed. credit, group 7): **Jen Armstrong**, Philosophy, meets in Parsons 131

All sections are Writing Intensive. Attendance at a discussion section is required to get credit for this course. Assessment is 50% for the three tests, given in the lecture classes as shown in the schedule, and 50% for attendance, participation, papers and other assignments specified in discussion section.

Assigned books: (Available at Durham Book Exchange)

Voltaire, *Candide* (Penguin)

Dickens, *Hard Times* (Penguin)

Ibsen, *A Doll's House and Other Plays* (Penguin)

Paul Johnson, *Napoleon: A Life* (Penguin)

Quammen, David, *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin: An Intimate Portrait of Charles Darwin and the Making of His Theory of Evolution* (Norton)

Kierkegaard. *Fear & Trembling* (Penguin)

Freud. *The Future of an Illusion* (Norton)

Ines Janet Engelmann, *Impressionism: 50 Paintings You Should Know* (Prestel, 2007)

**ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READINGS AND ANY READING OR SCHEDULE
CHANGES WILL BE POSTED ON THE GENERAL COURSE BLACKBOARD
ASSIGNMENT PAGE.**

This class will make use of Blackboard to circulate essential documents for reading and discussion. This is a **required**, not optional, part of the class. You should make sure you can access the class pages on the Blackboard system as soon as possible, and check them regularly. You should choose your own password to make it secure. Also, if you want email to go to another address than your UNH account, please change the email address on the Blackboard system. If you have not used Blackboard before, start with the page “10 Steps to Getting Started with Blackboard” <http://www.unh.edu/blackboard/gettingstarted.html> . Paper copies of this are available, if you wish. Other questions can be answered by the FAQ page: <http://www.unh.edu/blackboard/faqs.html> , or you can get help from the CIS Helpdesk in the MUB, or from a reference librarian.

Course Schedule & Assignments

WEEK ONE

Jan 21: General Group Intro

Jan 23: 'What is Enlightenment?', Jen Armstrong

Reading:

1. Kant. '*What is Enlightenment?*'

<http://www.english.upenn.edu/~mgamer/Etexts/kant.html>

2. John Locke. '*A Letter Concerning Toleration*': <http://www.constitution.org/jl/tolerati.htm>

& Chapter II & VII of *Two Treatises of Government*:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1690locke-sel.html>

WEEK TWO

Jan 26: Diderot's Critique of Rococo Art, Eleanor Hight

Reading:

1. Marilyn Stokstad, "The Rococo." E-reserves.

2. Denis Diderot, "Salon of 1863." E-reserves.

Jan 28: Historical intro to the 18th century, Christian Peterson

Reading: TBA

Jan 30: **DISCUSSION SECTION ONE**

WEEK THREE

Feb 2 & 4: Voltaire, Petar Ramadanovic

Reading: Voltaire, *Candide* (Penguin Classics)

Feb 6: The American Revolution, Christian Peterson

Reading:

1. Thomas Paine, "Common Sense"

<http://www.nipissingu.ca/departement/history/MUHLBERGER/2155/commons.htm>

2. Federalist 10, 14, and 51

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/fed.asp

WEEK FOUR

Feb 9: Contract & Conscience, Jen Armstrong

Reading: Jean Jacques Rousseau. *The Social Contract or Principles of Political Right:*
<http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm>

Feb 11: The French Revolution, Christian Peterson

Reading:

1. Declaration of the Rights of Man: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp
2. The Degree Abolishing Feudalism: <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/abolfeud.html>
3. Declaration of the Rights of Women:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1791degouge1.html>
4. Maximilien Robespierre: On the Principles of Political Morality, February 1794: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1794robspierre.html>
5. Edmund Burke, Reflection on the Revolution in France:
<http://web.archive.org/web/19981206201151/http://pluto.clinch.edu/history/wciv2/civ2ref/burke.html>

Feb 13: **DISCUSSION SECTION TWO**

WEEK FIVE

Feb 16: Neoclassicism and Revolution, Eleanor Hight

Reading:

1. Thomas Crow, "Patriotism and Virtue." E-reserves.
2. Johann Winckelmann, "Thoughts on the Imitation of Greek Works in Painting And Sculpture" and *History of Ancient Art*. E-reserves.

Feb 18: Thomas Jefferson and the Architecture of the New Republic, Eleanor Hight

Reading:

1. Spiro Kostof, "Architecture for a Nation." E-reserves.
2. Thomas Jefferson, "Letters." E-reserves.

Feb 20: **TEST ONE**

WEEK SIX

Feb 23: The Problem of Napoleon, Christian Peterson

Reading: Paul Johnson, *Napoleon*

Feb 25: The Intellectual Origins and Influence of European Nationalism, Christian Peterson

Reading:

1. Johann Gottlieb Fichte: To the German Nation, 1806:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1806fichte.html>
2. TBA

Feb 27: The Romantic Landscape, Eleanor Hight

Reading:

Robert Rosenblum, "Friedrich and the Divinity of Landscape." E-reserves.

WEEK SEVEN

Mar 2: Orientalism, Eleanor Hight

Reading:

1. Linda Nochlin, "The Imaginary Orient." E-reserves.
2. Edward Said, *Orientalism*. E-reserves.

Mar 4: Marx, Jen Armstrong

Reading: Marx' *'Introduction to A Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right'*:

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1843/critique-hpr/index.htm>

Mar 6: **DISCUSSION SECTION THREE**

WEEK EIGHT

Mar 9-13 & 23: Dickens, Petar Ramadanovic

Reading:

Dickens, *Hard Times* (Penguin Classics)

If you have not read the following works before, read approximately 25 pages of each. We will talk about their style:

-George Eliot, *Middlemarch* <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/145/145-h/145-h.htm>

-William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/599/599-h/599-h.htm>

-Jane Austen, *Emma*, 1815 <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/158/158-h/158-h.htm>

-Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*, 1857

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2413/2413-h/2413-h.htm>

SPRING BREAK!

WEEK NINE

Mar 23: Dickens, cont., Petar Ramadanovic

Mar 25: Courbet's Peasants, Eleanor Hight

Reading: Linda Nochlin, "The Invention of the Avant-garde." Course Documents.

Mar 27: **SECTION FOUR**

WEEK TEN

Mar 30: Kierkegaard, Jen Armstrong

Reading: Kierkegaard, *Fear & Trembling* (up through the Preliminary Expectoration)

Apr 1: Kierkegaard, Jen Armstrong

Reading: Kierkegaard, *Fear & Trembling* (the rest)

Apr 3: **TEST TWO**

WEEK ELEVEN

Apr 6: The Second Industrial Revolution, Christian Peterson

Reading: TBA

Apr 8: Impressionism and the Painting of Modern Life, Eleanor Hight

Reading: Ines Janet Engelmann, *Impressionism: 50 Paintings You Should Know* (Prestel, 2007).

Apr 10: Impressionism, cont., Eleanor Hight

Reading: Charles Baudelaire, "The Painter of Modern Life" (excerpt). E-reserves.

WEEK TWELVE

Apr 13: The Revolutions of 1848, Christian Peterson

Apr 15: TBA

Apr 17: **DISCUSSION SECTION FIVE**

WEEK THIRTEEN

Apr 20: Darwin, Christian Peterson

Apr 22, 24: Nietzsche, Jen Armstrong

Reading: '*Good and Evil, Good and Bad*' from *On the Genealogy of Morals:*
<http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/Nietzsche/genealogy1.htm>

WEEK FOURTEEN

Apr 27-Mar 1: Ibsen, Petar Ramadanovic

Reading: Ibsen, "A Doll's House" (Penguin Classics)

WEEK FIFTEEN

May 4: Gauguin, Munch, and Symbolist Art, Eleanor Hight

Reading: Abigail Solomon-Godeau, "Going Native." E-reserves.

May 6: Freud & the Future of an Illusion, Jen Armstrong

Reading: Freud, *The Future of an Illusion*

May 8: **DISCUSSION SECTION SIX**

WEEK SIXTEEN

May 11: Panel Discussion

May 14: **TEST THREE**