Analysis of the great age of monarchy between the Thirty Years War and the French Revolution. These years were remarkable for the rise of absolutist kings and queens in Europe, several of whom – Louis XIV of France, Leopold I of Austria, Peter the Great of Russia, and the eighteenth-century “enlightened absolutists” – will be examined in this course. We will also discuss the spread of new ideas in the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment. Our central concern will be the ways in which traditional views of politics, society, and culture came under attack in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, weakened by broader trends such as the spread of literacy, a commercial economy, and increasingly expensive warfare.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The assignments will consist of two class exams, a final exam, three reading tests, and one paper. The class exams and the final exam will include short answer and essay questions, while the reading tests will comprise exclusively short answer questions. The paper will be 7 – 9 pages in length (2100–2700 words) and is due on April 27. The paper assignment will be handed out in mid-February.

GRADING POLICY

The semester grade will be broken into “fifths”: 20% of your semester grade will come from each of the three exams (the two class exams and the final exam), 20% from the average of your three reading tests, and 20% from your paper.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is strongly recommended as a vital part of student learning but will not result in points deducted from the semester average. Roll will be taken each class by the instructor.
NOTE ABOUT BRIGHTSPACE (D2L)

This semester we will make use of Brightspace (D2L) to post grades and some course content. You can reach the website by going to d2l.sfasu.edu. Use the same user ID and password that you would use with MySFA. With “my courses,” you will see a list of your courses, and click on HIS 325.

TEXTS

Raymond Birn, *Crisis, Absolutism, Revolution: Europe and the World, 1648 – 1789*

Cardinal Richelieu, *The Political Testament of Cardinal Richelieu*

Isaac Kramnick, *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*

Timothy Brook, *Vermeer’s Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World*

Dorinda Outram, *The Enlightenment*

Robert Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (A-9.1)

*** Any student who has an electronic device visible during an exam (in their lap, on their desk, or visible nearby) will receive a zero for their exam grade.

*** No student will be allowed to leave the room during an exam unless they finish and turn in their exam first. If you need to go to the restroom, do so before the exam starts.

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.
Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

WITHHELD GRADES (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a B.A. degree in History:

1. Interpret the past in context.
2. Understand the complex nature of the historical record.
3. Engage in historical inquiry, research, and analysis.
4. Craft historical narrative and argument.
5. Practice historical thinking as central to engaged citizenship.

This section of this course will focus on PLOs 1, 2 and 4.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

1. The student will be able to explain and evaluate the concepts of absolutism and enlightened absolutism.

2. The student will be able to explain why absolutism failed to take root in Great Britain.

3. The student will be able to explain the main characteristics and consequences of the Enlightenment in Europe.

Explanation of credit hours awarded for course:
This is an upper-level history course. Upper-level lecture courses in history meet for 150 minutes each week for 15 weeks and also meet for a 2-hour final examination. Students typically have weekly reading assignments from a combination of textbooks, monographs, scholarly articles, primary document collections, and supplemental materials (biographies, historical novels, memoirs, etc). The level of reading is more advanced than that required in lower-level surveys, and the number of pages students are required to read is generally higher. Typical upper-level courses require students to take 2-3 essay exams per semester, in addition to the final exam, which is also generally a written exam. In addition, out-of-class writing assignments (book reviews, biographical sketches, research papers, etc) are typically required in upper-level courses. Course instructors are required to hold regular scheduled office hours to make themselves available to consult with students as needed. Combined, studying for exams, doing the required reading, completing writing assignments, and consulting with course instructors average two hours of work outside the classroom for every hour spent in the classroom. Online sections of upper-level courses contain extensive written content within modules, and instructors hold "electronic office hours" to consult with students as needed, generally responding to student inquiries within twenty-four hours. Online course content includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least 150 minutes per week. Besides engaging the material in the modules, online students have outside reading assignments similar to those mentioned above for face-to-face students. Thus, for every hour an online student spends engaging the content in the modules, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

COURSE CALENDAR

Jan 16   Introduction

Jan 21   The legacy of the sixteenth century: religious conflict and commercial expansion

Jan 23   Popular culture and the peasantry

* Darnton ch. 1, pp. 9 – 72

Jan 28   Nobles, urban elites, artisans
Jan 30 The theory of absolutism & the “crisis” of the 17th century
* Richelieu pp. 1 – 47, 67 – 79, 80 – 93, 103 – 128
-- First reading test, over the assigned Darnton and Richelieu reading

Feb 4 Mazarin, the Fronde, and the young Louis XIV
* Birn pp. 3 – 20

Feb 6 Louis XIV’s personal rule
* Birn pp. 45 – 78

Feb 11 The demands of war
* Birn pp. 111 – 131

Feb 13 The Puritan Revolution, Cromwell, and Restoration in England

Feb 18 The Dutch Republic: politics and culture

Feb 20 Witch-hunts in Europe

Feb 25 First exam

Feb 27 The Habsburg Empire
* Brook ch. 1, pp. 1 – 25

March 3 Prussia
* Brook ch. 2, pp. 26 – 53

March 5 Russia: Peter the Great
* Brook chs. 3 & 4, pp. 54 – 116

March 17 Peter the Great’s reforms
-- Second reading test, over the assigned Brook reading

March 19 Charles II, James II, and the Glorious Revolution
* Birn pp. 193 – 243

March 24 Queen Anne and the “rage of party”
* Birn pp. 245 – 262
March 26  New approaches to science and medicine

March 31  Second Exam

April 2  The Enlightenment: themes and issues
* Outram chs. 2 & 3, pp. 10 – 42

April 7  Enlightenment: the “public sphere” in the eighteenth century
* Outram chs. 4 & 5, pp. 43 – 66

April 14  Social and economic change in the eighteenth century
* Outram ch. 9, pp. 114 – 129

-- Third reading test, over the assigned Outram reading

April 16  Prussia and the Habsburgs to mid century
* Kramnick (Kant), pp. 1 – 7, and (Condorcet), pp. 64 – 69

April 21  The France of Louis XV
* Kramnick (Voltaire, Rousseau, d’Holbach), pp. 115 – 150

April 23  Attempts at reform in France and Britain
* Kramnick (Mandeville), pp. 242 – 254

** Paper due (Monday, April 27, by 9 pm)

April 28  Enlightened absolutism?: Catherine the Great
* Kramnick (Diderot), pp. 265 – 274

April 30  Enlightened absolutism?: Frederick the Great and Joseph II
* Kramnick (Rousseau and Voltaire), pp. 363 – 378

FINAL EXAM, Thursday, May 7, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

*** Note: SFA has scheduled this time for our final exam. No exceptions will be allowed.