HIST 5175 – 001: Enlightenment Era in Western Europe, Independent Study
Fall 2021

Mr. Robert Allen, History Department
357 Liberal Arts North / 468-3893 / rballen@sfasu.edu
Office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an overview of the era of the Enlightenment in Europe. We will focus on five themes or topics: new perceptions of life and of humanity, changes in religious belief and understanding, the emerging “science of society,” and the social practices and institutions that nourished Enlightenment thought.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements will consist of weekly class attendance on Zoom, weekly thesis statements, and a research paper assignment.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

25% of the semester grade will come from class participation in the weekly Zoom meetings. The weekly thesis statements will also count collectively for 25% of the semester grade, while 50% of the semester grade will come from the research paper.

NOTE ABOUT DESIRE2LEARN

This semester we will make use of Brightspace / Desire2Learn for assignments and grades. You can reach the website by going to d2l.sfasu.edu or through MySFA.

BOOKS TO PURCHASE

Dorinda Outram, The Enlightenment

Ritchie Robertson, The Enlightenment: the Pursuit of Happiness, 1680 – 1790
Harper, 2021

Isaac Kramnick, ed., The Portable Enlightenment Reader
Penguin, 1995
**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
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/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**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, and 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/](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 an M.A. degree in History:

1. The student will be able to explain the key issues and developments in at least two historical periods (one per course).
2. The student will be able to identify the main historical works and interpretive debates associated with an event or period.
3. The student will be able to locate, identify, and critically analyze primary sources.
4. The student will be able to research and analyze effectively an issue or topic in writing.
5. The student will be able to present written work in an appropriate academic style, including the proper citation of sources using Chicago Manual of Style (15th or most recent edition).
This section of this course will focus on PLOs 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 the causes of the Enlightenment in Western Europe.
2. The student will be able to evaluate the main currents of Enlightenment thought.
3. The student will be able to explain the main consequences and legacy of the Enlightenment in Western Europe.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

- **August 30 – September 20** Origins of the Enlightenment
- **September 27 – October 18** Religious and scientific thought
- **October 25 – November 15** Notions of society and of the “other”
- **November 29 – December 6** Politics and aesthetics