

HY 287, Enlightenment Culture
Palmer 227

Professor Tip Ragan

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

During the eighteenth century, intellectuals in Europe argued that they were living in a period of “Enlightenment.” Were they right? Was the Enlightenment the birthplace of meritocracy, toleration, and freedom, as some have argued, or was it rather the precursor of intellectual rigidity, modern racism and anti-Semitism, and totalitarianism, as others have maintained? Does it even make sense to discuss it as a coherent movement? What can—or should—we take from the Enlightenment to understand the contradictions and challenges posed by Modernity and Postmodernism?

Grades:

Classroom Participation	20%
Group Project	10%
Encyclopedia Entry	10%
Research Paper	40%
Final Exam	20%

For our course to succeed, it is vital that everyone attend class every single day. Please come prepared and ready to discuss the material. Classes begin promptly at 9:30. Be on time, and make sure that you have turned off cell telephones. If we have trouble with tardiness, I reserve the right to move the class’s starting time to 9:00.

You will participate in one group project for the course. Each group will make a classroom presentation analyzing a series of related articles from Diderot and d’Alembert’s *Encyclopédie*. English translations of articles can be found at <http://www.hti.umich.edu/d/did/>.

You will also be required to write an imaginative entry for the encyclopedia from the perspective of the eighteenth century. The entry should be at least 1000 words long. Please submit it via email.

One research paper is required. You may write on any topic relating to Enlightenment culture. The paper should be a minimum of eight pages, and it must be based on a minimum of three books. (For the purpose of this assignment, one book will serve as the equivalent of three articles.) Please submit it via email. Late papers will lose one grade step (e.g., B+ to a B) for every day that they are late. Make sure that you adhere to the honor code while writing your essay. I suggest that you take advantage of the College's learning commons in Tutt Library. The Writing Center consultants, in particular, are available to help you do your very best work.

We will have an oral final exam. I will circulate study guide questions on the third Friday and then meet with teams of students at the end of the course.

If you believe you are eligible for learning accommodations based on the impact of a qualified disability, please contact me privately. If you believe you may have a disability that impacts on learning, and you have not self-identified to the College's ADA contact (Dr. Bill Dove in the Colket Student Learning Center, x6168), please do so immediately. I will make appropriate learning accommodations in accordance with the letter you have received from the College's learning specialist.

Class Schedule

28 Nov., Mon., Introduction

29 Nov., Tues., What is Enlightenment?

Goodman and Wellman, *The Enlightenment*, Introduction and Part I;
Jacob, *Enlightenment*, Part I

30 Nov., Wed., The "Republic of Letters"

Goodman and Wellman, *The Enlightenment*, Part II; Jacob,
Enlightenment, Part II, pp. 73-156

7:00 pm, Screening of "The Marriage of Figaro"

1 Dec., Thur., Society and Institutions

Discussion of "The Marriage of Figaro"; Goodman and Wellman, *The Enlightenment*, Part III

2 Dec., Fri., Politics

Oral Presentations from the *Encyclopédie* on Politics; Jacob, *Enlightenment*, Part II, pp. 160-76; Beccaria, *On Crimes and Punishments*

5 Dec., Mon., Religion

Oral Presentations from the *Encyclopédie* on Religion; Lessing, *Nathan the Wise*

6 Dec., Tues., Rousseau

Oral Presentations from the *Encyclopédie* on Culture; Jacob, *Enlightenment*, Part II, pp. 177-201; Rousseau, *Politics and the Arts*

7 Dec., Wed., Research Day, No Class

5:45 pm, Encyclopedia Entry due

6:00 pm, Screening of “Ridicule” and Dinner Party

8 Dec., Thur., Urban Life

Discussion of “Ridicule”; Mercier, *Panorama of Paris*

9 Dec., Fri., Science and Sexuality

Goodman and Wellman, *The Enlightenment*, Part IV; Trumbach, chapters from *Sex and the Gender Revolution*; Jacob, “The Materialist World of Pornography”; and Ragan, “The Enlightenment Confronts Homosexuality”

12 Dec., Mon., Economics

Oral Presentations from the *Encyclopédie* on Economics; Selected readings by and about Adam Smith

13 Dec., Tues., Women and the Enlightenment

Goodman and Wellman, *The Enlightenment*, Part V, Riccoboni, *Story of Ernestine*

14 Wed., Gender

Oral Presentations from the *Encyclopédie* on Gender; Charriere, *Letters of Mistress Henley*

15 Dec., Thur., Research Day, No Class

16 Dec., Fri., Human Rights

Oral Presentations from the *Encyclopédie* on Foreign Lands/Foreign Peoples; Jacob, *Enlightenment*, 208-19; Paine, *Rights of Man*

19 Dec., Mon., Critiques of the Enlightenment

Goodman and Wellman, *The Enlightenment*, Part VI
Research Paper due

20 Dec., Tues., Romanticism

Goethe, *Sorrows of Young Werther*
Afternoon or Evening, Oral Exams

21 Dec., Wed., Morning, Oral Exams, continued