The Age of Genius

The Enlightenment through Music and History

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In this course, we will investigate some of the composers, writers, and theorists who made the long eighteenth century an Age of Enlightenment. Focusing on what many scholars have called the "Birth of Modernity," we will explore the broad-based questioning of Old Regime institutions and cultural practices. We will study the works of political theorists, such as Rousseau and Kant, writers, including Beaumarchais and Goethe, and composers, such as Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven.

Classes will begin at 9:00. The second week of the course will meet at the Baca campus. We will also have some afternoon sessions, so please stay on top of the syllabus.

Reading assignments are to be completed on the day they are listed below.

Three required books will be available in the CC Bookstore:
- Beaumarchais, The Marriage of Figaro
- Goethe, The Sorrows of Young Werther
- Madame de Staël, Corinne or Italy

The Marriage of Figaro libretto will be handed out in class.

All other readings will be posted on PROWL. We suggest you print the readings before coming to class.

Be sure to print out the readings you will have to do at the Baca before leaving; there is no internet access at the Baca campus.

Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory. Come prepared to discuss readings actively and critically.

Please turn off cell phones and computers during the class period. In addition, please take advantage of "official" breaks for personal needs.

One paper, one midterm essay, and two listening tests are assigned in this course. Instructions on these assignments will be given in class. Make sure that you adhere to the honor code while writing your essays.

We will have one final exam. You will be divided into study groups to prepare the test, and we will post study guide questions on Prowl the third Friday of the block. You should work with your study-group classmates to prepare the questions. Each group will be tested in an oral examination.

Grades will be determined as follows:

- Classroom participation: 15%
- Paper (5 pages): 20%
- Take-home midterm: 20%
- Listening test #1: 10%
- Listening test #2: 10%
- Group final exam: 25%

If you believe you are eligible for learning accommodations based on the impact of a qualified disability, please contact us privately. If you believe you have a disability that has an impact on learning, and you have not self-identified to the College’s ADA contact (Jan Edwards in 152 Tutt Library, x8285), please do so immediately. We will make appropriate learning accommodations in accordance with the letter you have received from her.
# Class Schedule

## Week 1

| Monday 3/23 | Introduction to the Course  
Bach and Handel  
Afternoon (1:00) - The Fundamentals of music (optional) |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 3/24 | The Idea of the Enlightenment  
Loyseau, “A Treatise on Orders.”  
Kant, “Answering the Question: What is Enlightenment?” |
| Wednesday 3/25 | Enlightenment Culture  
Selection from Rousseau, *Letter to M. D'Alembert on the Theater*  
Articles from the *Encyclopédie* ([http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did)):  
Philosopher;  
Genius; Taste; Wife; Woman (Anthropology);  
Woman (Ethics); Woman (Jurisprudence); Jew  
Articles from Rousseau's *Dictionary of Music*:  
Composer; Imitation; Recitative; Taste |
| Thursday 3/26 | Haydn and the “Classical Ideal”  
Afternoon (1:00-3:40) – Watch *Amadeus*  
Kerman, “The Viennese Classical Style”  
Haydn’s first contract  
Joseph Haydn in *Wikipedia*  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in *Wikipedia* |
| Friday 3/27 | Discuss *Amadeus*  
Mozart, a personification of genius?  
Blom, excerpts on Mozart Symphonies  
Optional – review of *Amadeus* by A. Peter Brown:  

## Week 2 – Baca Campus

**Leave for the Baca at 9:00 AM**

| Monday 3/30 | Watch *Beaumarchais, the Scoundrel* (movie)  
Paper due on “My Answer to the Question: ‘What is Enlightenment?’”  
Maza, “The Diamond Necklace Affair: The Case of the Missing Queen”  
Excerpts from Ravel, *The Contested Parterre*  
Beaumarchais, *The Marriage of Figaro*  
da Ponte, *Il nozze di Figaro* |
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<td>Tuesday 3/31</td>
<td>Beaumarchais and his world</td>
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| Wednesday 4/1 | Politics and love in Beaumarchais,  
*The Marriage of Figaro* |
| Thursday 4/2 | From Play to opera: da Ponte’s libretto and Mozart’s music for *Il nozze di Figaro*  
Afternoon (time TBD) - watch *Mozart, Il nozze di Figaro* |
| Friday 4/3 | Discuss opera  
Listening Test  
Return to Colorado Springs |
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<td>Tuesday 4/7</td>
<td>Revolutionary Culture</td>
<td>Excerpts from Mason, <em>Singing the French Revolution</em></td>
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<td>Friday 4/10</td>
<td>Late Beethoven: Piano Sonata Op. 110 and Symphony No. 9</td>
<td>Notes on Beethoven’s 9th by MG</td>
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| Week 4                      | Monday 4/13 | Listening test Reading and study day                      |                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------| Tuesday 4/14 | Genius in Question Discuss de Staël, *Corinne, or Italy* Afternoon – begin oral exams | Madame de Staël, *Corinne, or Italy*                                                                         |
|                            | Wednesday 4/15 | Oral exams continued                                        |                                                                                                               |