Europe in the Age of [Absolutism and] Enlightenment

Winter 2013/14 (Term I)
Mondays, 18:00 – 20:50
Buchanan D219

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Office Hours: Mondays, 16:00-17:00

Content:

In this course, we will study the key events, individuals, and ideas in European history from the middle of the seventeenth century to the eve of the French Revolution. We will pay particular attention to certain important developments, such as the rise of royal “absolutism” (we will also question the term’s validity and utility); the birth of an international system based on the “balance of power”; the theory and practice of mercantilism and the rise of the laissez-faire economy; the intellectual revolution that is known as the Enlightenment; the phenomenon of “enlightened absolutism”; and the origins of the French Revolution.

Requirements & Grading:

Book review (due Oct. 11th) 20%
Essay (due Nov. 29th) 40%
Final examination (date TBA) 40%

Texts:


Denis Diderot, The Nun. [ANY EDITION]

Class Schedule and Readings *(subject to change)*:

**Week 2 (Sept. 9th):** Introduction to the Course; the State (I)  
-Woloch, ch. 1 (pp. 5-29)

**Week 3 (Sept. 16th):** The State (II)  
-Woloch, ch. 1 (pp. 29-45)

**Week 4 (Sept. 23rd):** International Relations & the Balance of Power  
-Woloch, ch. 2

**Week 5 (Sept. 30th):** The Enlightenment (I)  
-Woloch, ch. 6

**Week 6 (Oct. 7th):** The Enlightenment (II); Enlightened Absolutism (I)  
-Woloch, ch. 7

***BOOK REVIEW DUE ON OCT. 11TH***

***NO CLASS ON OCT. 14TH: THANKSGIVING DAY***

**Week 8 (Oct. 21st):** Urban and Rural Society  
-Woloch, ch. 3

**Week 9 (Oct. 28th):** The European Economy  
-Woloch, ch. 4

**Week 10 (Nov. 4th):** Law & Order; Gender & Women  
-Woloch, ch. 5

***NO CLASS ON NOV. 11TH: REMEMBRANCE DAY***

**Week 13 (Nov. 18th):** Faith & Religion  
-Woloch, ch. 8

**Week 14 (Nov. 25th):** Towards Revolution; Enlightened Absolutism (II); Conclusion  
-Woloch, ch. 9

***ESSAY DUE NOV. 29TH***

FINAL EXAM: TBA
Assignments:

**Book Review:** Students will write a combined review of *Poetry and the Police* and *A Revolution of the Mind*. The review should be five to six pages long and follow the usual standards of the discipline. More details will be provided later in September, but be certain to follow the guidelines in Mary Lynn Rampolla’s book.

**Essay:** Students will write a research essay on a topic of their choice, although you should consult the instructor before the end of October. The paper must be ten to twelve pages in length, and be based on ten or so scholarly monographs and articles (other than class readings). Keep in mind the guidelines found in Mary Lynn Rampolla’s book. Further guidelines will be provided in February.

**Examinations:** The examinations will test students on material from the assigned readings and lecture notes. More details will be provided as the exam dates draw near.

Course Policies:

**Plagiarism:** From the UBC Calendar:

“3.1.1. Plagiarism occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person’s words or ideas are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Plagiarism encompasses situations in which there is no recognition given to the author for phrases, sentences, or ideas of the author incorporated in a work to situations in which an entire work is copied from an author, or composed by another person, and presented as original work. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student’s own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.”

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism in written work will result in an F for the course and a report to the President’s Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Please consult the History Writing Centre ([http://www.history.ubc.ca/content/common-questions-about-citations](http://www.history.ubc.ca/content/common-questions-about-citations)) for details on the proper use of citations. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require clarifications.

**Late Papers:** Assignments handed in after the due date will be penalized 5% per day except in the case of a medical emergency. If such an emergency does occur, the student must first consult Arts Advising with the proper documentation. Late papers will receive only a letter grade and no comments.
**All papers must be submitted electronically as a PDF.** Hard copies will not be accepted. All assignments must be received by 17:00 (five o’clock in the afternoon) on the due date to avoid incurring a late penalty.

- **IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO ASK FOR CONFIRMATION THAT I HAVE RECEIVED THE ASSIGNMENT. EMAILS THAT FAIL TO REACH ME DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN EXCUSE FOR LATE SUBMISSION.**

**Laptop users:** Students using laptops in this class will be asked to sit in the back rows in order to avoid disturbing other students and the instructor.

**Important Note on Using Internet Sources:** Students should be aware of the vast quantities of misleading and historically inaccurate information that is available on the Internet. Use of non-scholarly sources will be reflected in your final grade. Only Internet sources that are published in print form elsewhere (i.e. scholarly journal articles) should be used for historical research. If you find scholarly journal articles online, please cite the in-print version. A URL by itself is not a proper citation.

**Google Books and Essays:** Although Google Book Search may seem like a convenient time-saving alternative to using real books, students should avoid using it. Being unable to read the whole book and simply jumping freely from one section to another means that you will usually fail to understand the author's purpose and argument. These little nuggets of information (like the Internet itself) can be useful, but do not allow for the richness of a sustained argument that is laid out over hundreds of pages: though more time-consuming and challenging, it is this sort of analysis that is valued at this university.

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Students are strongly encouraged to consult the website for the History Department’s Writing Centre ([www.history.ubc.ca/writingcentre](http://www.history.ubc.ca/writingcentre)). There is a great deal of invaluable advice here, especially for those who might be less familiar with the conventions and expectations of the discipline.

Mary Lynn Rampolla’s *Handbook* is also an extremely useful source of information and should probably be purchased if you do not already own it.