SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2016-2017

HI2020 THE BIRTH OF MODERNITY:
POLITICS, CULTURE AND SCIENCE IN EUROPE, 1700-1870

30 credits, 12 weeks

ME33BM THE BIRTH OF MODERNITY: POLITICS, CULTURE AND SCIENCE IN EUROPE, 1700-1870

15 credits, 6 weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure. You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR
Dr Elizabeth C. Macknight e.macknight@abdn.ac.uk
Office telephone: 01224 272297

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
50-52 College Bounds
Room CBLG01
01224 272199/272454
history-ug@abdn.ac.uk

TIMETABLE
For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen
Students can also view their university timetable at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php
COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces students to the crucible of the modern age. Hinging on the French and 1848 Revolutions, it explores how men and women in elite and popular communities generated new modes of living, experience and expression and how they understood and manipulated the natural world. Attention will be given to the Enlightenment, Revolution, Empire, Romanticism and Ideology with interrelated developments in politics, culture and science also being explored. Students will be introduced to the works of figures such as Newton, Kant, Hume, Herder, Marx, Darwin and Nietzsche.

The forging of, and resistance to, new ideas concerning the individual, gender, society, the state and the natural world generated a wide-ranging and vigorous debate, which held at its heart a vital sense of the actors as either self-consciously modern or reactionary. At the core of the course will therefore be a study of the notion of revolutionary change, both in its specifically political and its broader cultural meanings. Thus, the ways in which revolutions were generated across the period, and the impact they held for the populace that created and experienced them will be the central focus of each phase of the course.

Lectures will highlight emblematic figures in each phase, and themes that link the different phases together. Particular attention will be given to the social context which generated and shaped actors, examining for instance, the rise of a reading public, the professionalization of cultural activity, and the fragmentation of an ideal of universal knowledge.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Aims
The course aims to provide students with a broad understanding of the development of the cultural and scientific character of Europe in the period and to relate this to foundational political developments. It will introduce students to essential knowledge and key concepts within the domains of cultural and political history.

Learning Outcomes
Intellectual Skills
By the end of the course students should be able to:
• display a basic knowledge of European history during a crucial period of crisis and change
• understand some of the primary debates among historians in narrating the period
• interrogate the meaning of key terms such as Enlightenment, Revolution and Ideology
• communicate these understandings in written and oral form.

Attitudinal Skills
This course is intended to enhance appreciation and awareness of:
• European cultural and intellectual development
• European attitudes toward the wider world
• European treatment and understanding of the natural world
• the skills characteristic of the professional historian.

Personal and Transferable Skills
This course is intended to sharpen skills in:
• written and verbal communication (explanation and argument), through essay work and tutorial discussion
• independent learning, through preparation for essays and tutorials
• exposition through the application of scepticism, common sense and open intellectual inquiry
• IT, including word-processing and Internet retrieval, through preparation for tutorials, documentary analysis, through the questioning of tutorial documents and the documentary test.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Week One
13 September L1: The Roots of Modernity (M. Brown)
15 September L2: Enlightened Absolutism (H. Mehrkens)

The Library Session for level two historians (by J. Mackay) will be recorded and made available on MyAberdeen.

Week Two
20 September L3: Newton (B. Marsden)
22 September L4: Self in Society (M. Brown)

Week Three
27 September L5: Empire of Reason? (M. Brown)
29 September L6: Kant and the German Enlightenment (K. Friedrich)

Seminar One: Enlightenment

Week Four
4 October L7: Creating Revolution (E. Macknight)
6 October L8: Defending Revolution (E. Macknight)

Seminar Two: Revolution

Week Five
11 October L9: The Counter-Revolutionaries (M. Brown)
13 October L10: Napoleon (E. Macknight)

Seminar Three: Reaction to Revolution (1) Politics

Week Six
18 October L11: Goya, the Gothic and the Irrational (M. Brown)
20 October L12: The Godwin Circle (M. Brown)

Seminar Four: Reaction to Revolution (2) Society & Culture

Week Seven
25 October L13: Herder, the Character of Nations and Idealism (K. Friedrich)
27 October L14: Storm, Stress and Play: German Romanticism (H. Mehrkens)
Week Eight
1 November L15: Religion in the nineteenth century (C. Barr)
3 November L16: Religion of Humanity: Positivism and Realism (M. Brown)
Seminar Five: Reaction to Revolution (3) Romanticism & Idealism

Week Nine
8 November L17: 1848 (E. Macknight)
10 November L18: Liberalism (C. Barr)
Seminar Six: Religion & Science

Week Ten
15 November L19: Nationalism (M. Brown)
17 November L20: Marxism (K. Mackenzie)
Seminar Seven: 1848 & Liberalism

Week Eleven: Fin de Siècle
22 November L21: Darwin (B. Marsden)
24 November L22: Nietzsche and the Twilight of Modernity (M. Brown)
Seminar Eight: Nation & Class

Week Twelve: Revision

READING LIST

The following general studies providing a valuable overview of the period are highly recommended. Students will be expected to supplement their readings, both for essays and exams, from collections of essays and various journals as well as the standard monographs.

Lynn Hunt (ed.), The New Cultural History (Berkeley, 1989)
Peter Burke, Varieties of Cultural History (Cambridge, 1997)

Below are suggested readings for each individual lecture. Students are expected to supplement their reading via their own exploration of Library resources.

Week One

L1: The Roots of Modernity
Asa Briggs & Peter Burke, A Social History of the Media. From Gutenberg to the Internet (Polity, 2002), chapters two & three
Simon Schama, The Embarrassment of Riches. An Interpretation of Dutch Culture in the Golden Age (New York, 1987)
Jonathan Israel, Enlightenment Contested. Philosophy, Modernity, and the Emancipation of Man 1670 –1752 (OUP, 2006), Part One
Keith Thomas, Religion and the Decline of Magic (Harmondsworth, 1971)
Introduction & Conclusion

L2: Newton
Gale E. Christianson, In the Presence of the Creator: Isaac Newton and his Times (1984)
John Fauvel et al. (eds.), Let Newton Be! (1988)

Week Two

L3: Enlightened Absolutism

L4: Self in Society

Week Three
L5: The Empire of Reason?
Charlotte Sussman, *Consuming Anxieties: Consumer Protest, Gender and British Slavery* (Stanford, 2000).

L6: Kant and the German Enlightenment
S. Lestition, ‘Kant and the End of Enlightenment in Prussia’, *Journal of Modern History* 65/1 (1993), 57-112
P.H. Reill, *The German Enlightenment and the rise of historicism* (1975)
H. Reiss (ed.), *Kant’s Political Writings* (Cambridge 1970)
Ian Hunter, *Rival Enlightenments: civil and metaphysical philosophy in early modern Germany* (Cambridge 2001)

Week Four

L7: Creating Revolution
The following selection of books contains relevant material for both lectures on the French Revolution
Peter McPhee, *Living the French Revolution* (Basingstoke, 2007)

L8: Defending Revolution
See above.

Week Five

L9: The Counter-Revolutionaries

L10: Napoleon
Malcolm Crook, *Napoleon Comes to Power: Democracy and Dictatorship in Revolutionary France, 1795–1804* (Cardiff, 1998)
Jakob Walter and Marc Raeff, *The Diary of a Napoleonic Foot Soldier* (New York, 1991)
Isser Woloch, *Napoleon and His Collaborators* (New York, 2001)

Week Six

L11: Goya, the Gothic and the Irrational

L12: The Godwin Circle
Claudia L. Johnson, *Equivocal Beings:Politics, Gender and Sentimentality in the 1790s*
(Chicago, 1995).
Mary Poovey, *The Proper Lady and the Woman Writer* (Chicago, 1984)

**Week Seven**

**L13: Herder, the Character of Nations and Idealism**
‘National Messianism’

**L14: Storm, Stress, and Play: German Romanticism**
F.J. Lamport, *German Classical Drama: Theatre, Humanity and Nation 1750-1870* (Cambridge, 1990), chapters 1, 3 and 4

**Week Eight**

**L15: Religion in the Nineteenth Century**
Owen Chadwick, *The Secularization of the European Mind in the Nineteenth-Century*.

**L16: The Religion of Humanity: Positivism and Realism**
Peter Brooks, *Realist Vision* (New Haven, 2005)

**Week Nine**

**L17: 1848**

**L18: Liberalism**

**Week Ten**

**L19: Nationalism**

**L20: Marxism**

**Week Eleven**

**L21: Darwin**
Adrian Desmond and Jim Moore, *Darwin* (1991)
L22: Nietzsche and the Twilight of Modernity

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on a document report, an assessed essay, seminar participation, and the two-hour degree examination. The re-sit assessment is a 2-hour degree examination. Note that in order to be assessed you must earn a class certificate.

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen – Organisations - Divinity, History & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

Seminar Participation: It will be assumed that you will attend and participate in all seminars. From the second seminar, there will be a 150 word response required for the assigned document reading. Seminar Participation will constitute 10% of the final assessment.

Document Report. The document report should be 1,000 words in length. It should be submitted in word-processed format and must be accompanied by a bibliography and foot- or endnotes that conform to standard academic conventions. This will be an analysis of a primary document taken from the document report pack. Document reports will be returned individually, as soon as possible after submission, with a CAS mark and written comments. These consultations will provide an opportunity to discuss general aspects of the course as well as the specific piece of work under review. The document report will constitute 20% of the final assessment.

The Document Report should not be simply a restatement of what the document or documents contain. You should seek to set the document in context. What is the nature of the document? Who is writing it? What is valuable about this document? What does it reveal about the attitudes and position of its writer? What is the background to the document? Why is it being written? You need also to consider the core of the document. What is, or are, the most important points made in the document or documents? What do they reveal about the themes of the course?

Essay. The essay should be 2,500 words in length. It should be submitted in word-processed format and must be accompanied by a bibliography and foot- or endnotes
that conform to standard academic conventions. You may substitute one of the set questions by your own question, provided that you submit a bibliography with your proposed question for approval by your tutor in advance. Essays will be returned individually with a CAS mark and written comments. These consultations will provide an opportunity to discuss general aspects of the course as well as the specific piece of work under review. The essay will constitute 30% of the final assessment.

You are expected to devise your own bibliography for the essay, making use of relevant bibliographical material elsewhere in this booklet and other material available through the Library. Your bibliography, which should feature at least eight works, should include at least one specialised monograph and at least one article from a journal, and no more than two general textbooks. If you have difficulty obtaining reading materials, consult your tutor.

**Degree Examination.** The exam will be held in December. In the two-hour paper you will be expected to answer three questions. All questions will be on issues addressed in lectures. The purpose of the examination is to test your ability to synthesise material covered in the course. A mock exam will be made available on the MyAberdeen course site. The mark for the Degree Examination constitutes 40% of the final assessment.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**
The deadline for the document report is Monday of Week 5 not later than 3pm.
The deadline for the essay is Monday of Week 8 not later than 3pm.

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

**Please submit by the deadline ONE paper copy (cover sheet required) PLUS, ONE official electronic copy (no cover sheet required) as follows:**

**Hard Copy:** One hard copy typed and double spaced, together with an Assessment cover sheet – this should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the History Admin Office [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen. (For instructions please see http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/) Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.
Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

**Please note:** Failure to submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin and a hard copy to the school office, by the stated deadline, will result in a zero mark.

*N.B Turnitin doesn’t accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.*

**EXAMINATION**
The exam lasts two hours and students are required to answer three questions from a choice of twelve. *Past exam papers can be viewed* at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/)

**INFORMATION FOR ME33BM STUDENTS**
Medical students taking ME33BM as part of the Medical Humanities programme will join the course from Week 7 of teaching and must attend all classes from that point. They will be assigned to one of the existing tutorials in accordance with their timetables. They are encouraged to visit the [MyAberdeen](http://myabdn.abdn.ac.uk) site for HI2020 where material will be available on lectures from the earlier part of the course.

**Assessment for ME33BM (only) is as follows:**
- Students must submit one 3,000-word essay. It is due by 3pm on Monday of Week 10. This essay counts for 80% of the total mark.
- Students must complete one short written exercise (20%). This will either be a 500-word analysis of a tutorial document, or a 500-word review of a secondary source book for 10% of the total mark. This will be due at 3pm on Monday of Week 9.
- Students must attend Tutorials. Attendance is compulsory and will be monitored. **STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO SUBMIT A 150 WORD RESPONSE TO DOCUMENT READINGS**, as directed by their tutor.
- Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the rules on attendance and monitoring on the Medical Humanities pages: [https://www.abdn.ac.uk/medical/resource_centre/medical_humanities/](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/medical/resource_centre/medical_humanities/)
- Students must note, in particular, those sections on attendance and Class Certificates.

*Past exam papers can be viewed at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).*