SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

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/COURSE TEAM
Course Coordinator: Professor Robert Frost (robert.frost@abdn.ac.uk). His office hours are 1:00-2:00 on a Thursday, or by appointment. Other Tutors are Professor Karin Friedrich (k.friedrich@abdn.ac.uk) and Dr Kirsteen Mackenzie (kirsteen.mackenzie@abdn.ac.uk) For office hours see: Office Hours.

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
50-52 College Bounds
Room CBLG01
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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 key thinkers for the construction of modernity, including 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 which 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 which 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 professionalisation 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 seminar discussion
• independent learning, through preparation for essays and seminars
• exposition through the application of scepticism, common sense and open intellectual inquiry
• IT, including word-processing and internet retrieval, through preparation for seminars
• documentary analysis, through the questioning of seminar documents and the documentary test

**LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

**Week One**
15 September: L.1: The Roots of Modernity (R. Frost)
17 September: L.2: Newton (R. Frost)

**Week Two**
22 September: L3: Enlightened Absolutism (R. Frost)
24 September: L.4: Self in Society (M. Brown)

**Week Three**
29 September: L5: Empire of Reason? (M. Brown)
1 October: L6: Kant and the German Enlightenment (K. Friedrich)
**Seminar One: Enlightenment**

**Week Four**
6 October: L.7: Creating Revolution (E. Macknight)
8 October: L.8: Defending Revolution (E. Macknight)
**Seminar Two: Revolution**

**Week Five**
13 October: L.9: The Counter-Revolutionaries (M. Brown)
15 October: L.10: Napoleon (E. Macknight)
**Seminar Three: Reaction to Revolution (1) Politics**

**Week Six**
20 October: L.11: Goya, the Gothic and the Irrational (M. Brown)
22 October: L.12: The Godwin Circle (M. Brown)
**Seminar Four: Reaction to Revolution (2) Society & Culture**

**Week Seven: DOCUMENT REPORT DUE**
27 October: L.13: Herder, the Character of Nations and Idealism (K. Friedrich)
29 October: L.14: Storm, Stress and Play: German Romanticism (M. Brown)
**Seminar Five: Reaction to Revolution (3) Romanticism & Idealism**
**Week Eight:**
3 November: L15: Religion in the nineteenth century (C. Barr)
5 November: L16: Religion of Humanity: Postivism and Realism (M. Brown)

**Seminar Six: Religion & Science**

**Week Nine**
10 November: L17: 1848 (E. Macknight)
12 November: L18: Liberalism (C. Barr)

**Seminar Seven: 1848 & Liberalism**

**Week Ten: ESSAY DUE**
17 November: L19: Nationalism (C. Barr)
19 November: L20: Marxism (C. Barr)

**Seminar Eight: Nation & Class**

**Week Eleven: Fin de Siècle**
24 November: L21: Darwin (M.Brown)
26 November: L22: Nietzsche and the Twilight of Modernity (M.Brown)

**Week Twelve: Revision**
3 December (R. Frost)

**READING LIST**

The following bibliography is merely an introduction to the vast amount of material available in the libraries on each of the topics covered in the lectures. 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. The library visit by seminar groups in Week 3 will help familiarise students with collections in the Library. The following general studies, providing a valuable overview of the period, are highly recommended.

- Peter Burke, *Varieties of Cultural History* (Cambridge, 1997)

What follows below are suggested readings for each individual lecture. As with the general reading suggested above, students are expected to supplement their reading as necessary.
Week One: 1600

L.1: 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:

L.3: Enlightened Absolutism
H.M.Scott, Enlightened Absolutism: Reform and Reformers in later eighteenth-century Europe (1990)

L.4: Self in Society

**Week Three:**

**L.5: The Empire of Reason?**

Charlotte Sussman, *Consuming Anxieties: Consumer Protest, Gender and British Slavery* (Stanford, 2000).

**L 6: Kant and the German Enlightenment**

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:**

**L.7 Creating Revolution**

NB: The following selection of books contains relevant material for both lectures on the French Revolution

Peter McPhee, *Living the French Revolution* (Basingstoke, 2007)

L.8: Defending Revolution

See Lecture 8, above.

**Week Five**

**L9: The Counter-Revolutionaries**


**L.10: Napoleon**

There are excellent review articles archived by H-France. Click on the link below to read essays by Malcolm Crook, Isser Woloch, and Howard G. Brown (those with some knowledge of French are encouraged to read the essay by Annie Jourdan as well). [http://www.h-france.net/reviews/pre2001reviews/NapoleonEssays.html](http://www.h-france.net/reviews/pre2001reviews/NapoleonEssays.html)
Malcolm Crook, *Napoleon Comes to Power: Democracy and Dictatorship in Revolutionary France, 1795–1804* (Cardiff, 1998)

**Week Six**

**L. 11: Goya, the Gothic and the Irrational**


**L.12: The Godwin Circle**

Mary Poovey, *The Proper Lady and the Woman Writer* (Chicago, 1984)

**Week Seven**

**L.13 : Herder, the Character of Nations and Idealism**
John H. Zammito, *Kant, Herder and the Birth of Anthropology* (Chicago, 2001)

**L. 14. 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**

**L. 15: Religion in the Nineteenth-Century**
Owen Chadwick, *The Secularization of the European Mind in the Nineteenth-Century*.

**L. 16: The Religion of Humanity: Positivism and Realism**
Peter Brooks, *Realist Vision* (New Haven, 2005)

Week Nine:

**L. 17: 1848**


**L18: Liberalism**


Week Ten:

**L.19: Nationalism**


**L.20: Marxism**

**Week Eleven:**

**L21: Darwin**
Adrian Desmond and Jim Moore, *Darwin* (1991)  

**L22: Nietzsche and the Twilight of Modernity**
ASSESSMENT

Feedback on all assessment should be timely and normally provided within a maximum of three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) following the deadline for submission of the assessment.

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

Assessment is based on:
2-hour degree Examination (40%)
1,000 word Document Report (20%)
2,500 word Assessed Essay (30%)
Seminar Participation (10%)

The Resit assessment:
2-hour degree examination (100%)

Note that in order to be assessed you must earn a class certificate.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/examdb/.

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.

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.

WRITTEN WORK

1. 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 which conform to standard academic conventions. This will be an analysis of a primary document taken from the document report pack posted on MyAberdeen. 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? For further guidance as to how to approach historical documents, see the guide ‘Reading Historical Documents’ in the Course Materials Folder on MyAberdeen.

2. **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 which conform to standard academic conventions. An essay programme is included in this handout. 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, 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 essay will constitute **30%** of the final assessment.

3. The **Degree Examination** 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 Class Website. The mark for the Degree Examination constitutes **40%** of the final assessment.

**ESSAYS**
You are expected to devise your own bibliography for each essay, making use of relevant bibliographical material elsewhere in this booklet and other material available through the Library. Your bibliography, which should feature between six and 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.

To alleviate pressure on library resources, no more than 10 students may attempt any one essay. Thus, you are required to sign up for an essay topic on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. This will be done via the class website in week three and week seven of term.
ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

THE DEADLINE FOR THE DOCUMENT REPORT IS WEDNESDAY OF WEEK SEVEN (28 OCTOBER) NOT LATER THAN 12 NOON

THE DEADLINE FOR THE ESSAY IS WEDNESDAY OF WEEK 10 (18 NOVEMBER) NOT LATER THAN 12 NOON

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The Department requires ONE official electronic copy submitted by the deadline plus ONE paper copy of all assignments with the TurnitinUK receipt, attached as follows:

Electronic Copy: One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen.
Hard Copy: One hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached together with an Assessment cover sheet, typed and double spaced – this copy 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 Department [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

Please note: Failure to submit both to Turnitin, and also one identical hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to Turnitin will result in a zero mark.

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/
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 a seminar group in accordance with their timetables. They are encouraged to visit the MyAberdeen site for HI2020 where material will be available on lectures from the earlier part of the course.

Assessment for ME33BM (only) is as follows:

1. Students must complete one short written exercise (20%). This will either be a 500-word analysis of a seminar document, or a 500-word review of a secondary source book for 20% of the total mark. This will be due at 12 noon on Monday of Week 10 (16 NOVEMBER).
2. Students must submit one 2,500-word Essay. It is due at 12 noon on Wednesday of Week 11 (25 NOVEMBER). This essay counts for 80% of the total mark.
3. Students must attend Seminars. Attendance is compulsory (and will be monitored). STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO SUBMIT A 150-WORD RESPONSE TO DOCUMENT READINGS, as directed by their tutor.
4. 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/
5. 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/.