

## ENLIGHTENMENT LITERATURE & PHILOSOPHY

ENGL 4433.001 / SPRING 2023 / MW 2:00-3:20 / LANG 209



(Pictured above: print of Isaac Newton by William Blake, 1795-1805. Description: Newton sits naked on a rock formation by a darkly lit shore. He is bent over and working on a diagram with a compass)

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My Pronouns: She/They

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My Zoom Classroom & Zoom Office:

<https://unt.zoom.us/j/6837842372>

Zoom by phone (audio only): 1 346-248-7799

Meeting ID: 683 784 2372

How to contact me with a question or to schedule an Office Hours appointment:

Email or Text me with your question or Office Hours appointment request at the email address or cell phone number listed above. Please do not attempt to reach me via Canvas chat, messenger, or any other Canvas interface. Be sure to state in the subject heading of every email and the body of each text: your full name, the name or number of the course, and your course section number.

Course Description: Reading philosophy alongside fiction, drama, poetry, and nonfiction prose of the “long eighteenth century,” we will explore the many textual manifestations of Enlightenment thought and controversy.

Required Texts: None. Electronic links or attachments of required weekly course readings will be posted on our course Canvas page, linked weekly in the syllabus below.

### Course Requirements and Grading

Test 1 (March 8) and Test 2 (May 1) (worth 33% of course grade each): In class on the dates in bold below, closed book, closed notes, without looking at the syllabus or using the internet. Based on reading assignments and class discussion, each test will consist of 20 multiple choice questions, including some multiple-choice quote i.d's of passages discussed in class. Test 1 will cover material from weeks 1-7 . Test 2 will cover material from weeks 8-15.

There will be an in-class test review/Q&A session before the test. Notes from that review/Q&A session will be attached to the syllabus afterwards.

Critical Essay (33% of course grade, due on Canvas by Friday May 12 at 11:59pm): In this 6-page (or more) formal critical essay, you will introduce, develop, and sustain an original

argument about EITHER any one or two (philosophical and/or literary) texts covered in the class, OR any other text(s) by that/those author(s). In addition to the scheduled class essay workshop/Q&A session listed below, I am available to meet with you individually to brainstorm essay topics or read any kind of partial or impartial draft and offer feedback.

In each paragraph, be sure to quote directly and selectively from the text you're critiquing, and to analyze those passages closely and creatively, with attention to detail and context. Avoid dwelling on points we've already covered in class, unless it's a point that you made in class yourself. You may freely refer to any point already covered in class if you're using it as a springboard to saying something new. Avoiding the obvious: With every point you make, be sure to move beyond "arguing" a point that, though true, should be obvious to any other intelligent reader in the class. Good essays take the risk of introducing a counterintuitive or surprising argument that is somehow "new"; otherwise, it's not worth stating at all.

Formatting: essays must be 6 pages or more, 1.5- or double-spaced, in a reasonable font (11 or 12-point Times New Roman, for instance), and with 1 inch margins all around, submitted electronically via the course CANVAS page. If you choose to consult, reference, or quote from any sources not listed on the syllabus, you must provide an MLA-style "Works Cited" list on a separate page at the end of your essay (See: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_works\\_cited\\_page\\_basic\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_basic_format.html) ). Cite any quotes or references to any texts parenthetically within the body of your essay [Example: Rousseau and Paine believed that "natural law" preceded "civil law" (Rousseau, 35; Paine, 44)], unless you're citing from a text in the syllabus that does not provide page or line numbers, and if it is clear from your reference which author and text you're citing.

Making it through the semester (worth 1% of course grade): Congrats in advance. You got this!

## COURSE POLICIES

### Attendance & Participation:

Regular attendance is mandatory to succeed in this course. If you don't attend, it will be impossible to do well on the graded assignments. In addition to regular attendance, I expect active participation of all students. Active participation manifests itself differently in everyone,

depending on your learning style, personality, introversion, or extroversion, etc., but always includes having the day's assigned reading with you (either a physical copy, or an electronic copy), following along in the reading as we discuss various passages, and being visibly and/or audibly engaged in the discussion at hand (knitting, doodling, etc., or moving about/fidgeting in the classroom is perfectly fine, whatever it takes for you to be comfortable and stay engaged, as long as you're respecting the boundaries, health, and safety of others!).

#### Plagiarism Policy:

Any student who plagiarizes will receive an automatic "F" for the course. For UNT's full Academic Integrity Policy, see: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

#### Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act:

The right to equal access and accommodation for people with disabilities is guaranteed under federal civil rights law by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), regardless of student status or UNT Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) registration. Reasonable accommodation and equal access for students with disabilities are important to me regardless of ODA status, and I will seek to accommodate you however I can; just let me know. Students seeking specific accommodations at UNT through ODA, however, must first register with the ODA to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that the ODA requires that students obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>.

#### Reading & Assignment Schedule:

Readings & assignments are due on the days listed below. Readings are subject to change based on pace of class discussion. Any changes to the reading will be announced in class on the class day prior and adjusted in the CANVAS syllabus accordingly.

## Week 1: Intro to Enlightenment Thought

M, 1/16: MLK Day (No Class)

W, 1/18: Intro to the Course

## Week 2: Descartes & Locke

M, 1/23: Pope, "Essay on Man," Epistle 1:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44899/an-essay-on-man-epistle-i> ; Goldsmith, "Elegy on the Death of a Mad Dog:"

[https://www.poetry-archive.com/g/an\\_elegy\\_on\\_the\\_death\\_of\\_a\\_mad\\_dog.html](https://www.poetry-archive.com/g/an_elegy_on_the_death_of_a_mad_dog.html)

W, 1/25: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditations 1 – 6:

[https://yale.learningu.org/download/041e9642-df02-4eed-a895-70e472df2ca4/H2665\\_Descartes%27%20Meditations.pdf](https://yale.learningu.org/download/041e9642-df02-4eed-a895-70e472df2ca4/H2665_Descartes%27%20Meditations.pdf)

## Week 3: Hume & Bacon

M, 1/30: Locke, Book III: Of Words, Chapters I, II, III, & IV, Essay Concerning Human Understanding: <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/10616/pg10616-images.html>

W, 2/1: Hume, Section 10: Miracles, Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, pp. 55-68: [https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hume1748\\_3.pdf](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hume1748_3.pdf); Bacon, Aphorisms, Novum Organum, pp. 17-94: [Novum\\_Organum.pdf](#)

## Week 4: The Basset Table & Sir Isaac Newton's Philosophy Explained for the Use of the Ladies

M, 2/6: Centlivre, The Basset Table:

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/ecco/004787500.0001.000?rgn=main;view=fulltext>

W, 2/8: Algorotti, The First Dialogue and Dialogue 2, Sir Isaac Newton's Philosophy Explained for the Use of the Ladies: <https://www.newtonproject.ox.ac.uk/catalogue/record/OTHE00104>

## Week 5: Gulliver's Travels

M, 2/13: Swift, Gulliver's Travels, Lilliput & Brobdingnag Sections:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/829>

W, 2/15: Swift, Gulliver's Travels, Book 3, Laputa Section only; and entire Houynymns Section (i.e. all of Book 4):

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/829>

#### Week 6: The Ethics of Enlightenment Economics

M, 2/20: Smith, Introduction and Book I, Chapters 1-5, The Wealth of Nations:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/3300/3300-h/3300-h.htm#chap01>

W, 2/22: Mandeville, "The Grumbling Hive: Or, Knaves Turned Honest," i.e. the poem before the introduction to The Fable of the Bees; Or Private Vices, Public Benefits, pp. 1-12:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/57260>

#### Week 7

M, 2/27: Swift, "A Modest Proposal": <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1080>

W, 3/1: Duck, "The Thresher's Labour":

<https://www.eighteenthcenturypoetry.org/works/o4741-w0030.shtml>; Collier, "A Woman's Labour": <https://www.eighteenthcenturypoetry.org/works/pco62-w0010.shtml>

#### Week 8:

M, 3/6: Prep/Q&A for Test 1

W, 3/8: Test 1

Week 9: Spring Break: No Classes 3/14-3/18

Week 10: Northanger Abbey & The Gothic Novel

M, 3/20: Austen, Northanger Abbey, 1st half: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/121>

W, 3/22: Austen, Northanger Abbey, 2nd half: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/121>

Week 11: The Ancients vs. The Moderns

M, 3/27: Sir William Temple, An Essay upon the Ancient and Modern Learning:

[https://archive.org/stream/sirwilliamtemple00tempuoft/sirwilliamtemple00tempuoft\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/sirwilliamtemple00tempuoft/sirwilliamtemple00tempuoft_djvu.txt)

W, 3/29: William Wotton, Reflections upon Ancient and Modern Learning, pp. 11-45, i.e.

"Reflections upon Ancient and Modern Learning," "CHAP II. Of the Moral and Political Knowledge of the Ancients and Moderns," "CHAP III. Of Ancient and Modern Eloquence and Poesie:"

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A67135.0001.001/1:7?rgn=div1;view=toc>

Week 12: Equal Rights & Cosmopolitanism

M, 4/3: Swift, The Battel of the Books: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/623/623-h/623-h.htm>

W, 4/5: Paine, The Rights of Man (Part 1):

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/3742/3742-h/3742-h.htm>; Rousseau, "Discourse on the Origin of Inequality" <https://aub.edu.lb/fas/cvsp/Documents/DiscourseonInequality.pdf879500092.pdf>

Week 13: Equiano's Narrative & the Hypocrisy of Enlightenment Slavery

M, 4/10: Kant, "Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Perspective" & "Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch:" Kant.pdf

W, 4/12: Equiano, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano (1st half):  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/15399>

#### Week 14: Women & Enlightenment

M, 4/17: Equiano, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano:  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/15399> (finish)

W, 4/19: de Gouges, "The Rights of Woman" Marie-Olympe de Gouges, Declaration of the Rights of Woman, 1791.pdf ; Lady Mary Chudleigh, "To the Ladies"  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43943/to-the-ladies>; Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, Dedication and Chapters 1-3:  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/3420/pg3420-images.html>

#### Week 15:

M, 4/24: Swift, "The Ladies Dressing Room"  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50579/the-ladys-dressing-room> ; "A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed"  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50580/a-beautiful-young-nymph-going-to-bed>

W, 4/26: Prep/Q&A for Test 2

#### Week 16:

M, 5/1: Test 2 in Class

W, 5/3: Critical Essay Workshop; SPOT Evaluations (Note: The SPOT Evaluation link will be provided here when available).



\*FRIDAY, MAY 12: CRITICAL ESSAY DUE ON CANVAS BY 11:59 PM\*

Note: There is no final exam in this course.