History 71300: Enlightenment and Religion

Spring, 2013
Professor Sorkin
W 6:30-8:30
5301
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This course explores the relationship between the Enlightenment and religion. Our first session will be devoted to definitions of the Enlightenment in the eighteenth and twenty-first centuries. We will then probe two related issues. First, how did the *philosophes* view religion? We will read such key thinkers as Locke, Pufendorf, Voltaire, Rousseau and Lessing on such critical issues as toleration, natural religion and the relationship between reason and revelation.

We will then shift to ask the less conventional question of the uses theologians or clergy made of the Enlightenment. In this connection we will read thinkers affiliated with movements of religious renewal such as the Anglican Moderate William Warburton, the Reform Catholic Lodovico Muratori and the maskil (Jewish Enlightener) Moses Mendelssohn.

The course will cross national borders (England, France, German states and Habsburg empire) and confessional boundaries (Protestanism, Catholicism, Judaism). Our focus will be Western and Central Europe.

The course will be divided into two phases. We will have common readings of primary sources and scholarship for the first seven weeks. These are designed to familiarize you with major issues and approaches. The remaining weeks will be devoted to presentations of research in progress.

The requirements for the course are:
1. A three page evaluation of one of the common readings (due by the beginning of the class when the book is discussed). You should chose a book that is relevant to your anticipated research project.
2. A five page review of a scholarly book (chosen in consultation with the instructor) that is relevant to your research project (due by March 27th) and a ten minute oral report on the book.
3. A twenty-five page double-spaced research paper on a subject to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. In preparation for this paper you will be asked to prepare a prospectus (3-5 pages) and bibliography by April 3rd; a first draft of the paper by May 8th; and to give a twenty minute oral report in the concluding weeks of the semester.

Required Readings:
Primary Sources:
Jean Le Rond D’Alembert, *Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia of Diderot* (Chicago)
John Locke, *The Reasonableness of Christianity* (Stanford)
John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (Buffalo, NY, Prometheus Books)
Samuel Pufendorf, *Of the Nature and Qualification of Religion in Reference to Civil Society* (Liberty Fund)
Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Lessing's Theological Writings* (Stanford)
Moses Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem, or on Religious Power and Judaism* trs. Arkush (Hanover, NH, University Press of New England)
William Warburton, *The Alliance between Church and State* (Blackboard)
Lodovico Muratori, *The Science of Rational Devotion* (Blackboard)
Secondary Sources:
Ernst Cassirer, *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment* (Princeton, 1951)

Articles and the books by Warburton and Muratori are available on Blackboard.

January 30th
"What is Enlightenment?"
D'Alembert, *Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia of* Diderot, 3-14, 60-105
Immanuel Kant, "An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?" 58-64.

"What was Enlightenment?"

February 6th
*Locke, The Reasonableness of Christianity*

February 13th
*Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration*
Samuel Pufendorf, *Of the Nature and Qualification of Religion in Reference to Civil Society* 11-121

February 27th
Lessing's *Theological Writings*, 51-106
Rousseau, “Creed of a Savoyard Vicar,” *Émile*
Voltaire, “Sermon of the Fifty”

March 6th
William Warburton, *The Alliance between Church and State*

March 13th
Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem*
Alexander Altmann, “Introduction,” to *Jerusalem*, 3-28

March 20th
Muratori, *The Science of Rational Devotion*

March 27th
Review of Scholarly book

April 3rd
Prospectus and Bibliography

April 10th
Report on a primary source

April 17th
1-3 pages of argument

April 24th
5 pages

May 1
10-15 pages

May 8th
First draft

May 15th
Final Paper