HUM 315: The Enlightenment

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Prerequisites: WRIT 131 Writing I or have instructor's permission.

Lab Hours/ Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/ Week :

MnTC Goals: Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies, Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

The scientific revolution of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries led to eighteenth-century doubts about Christianity and optimism about progress based on "enlightenment" or reason. If science could penetrate the secrets of nature, perhaps the same methods could be used in economics and politics? The resulting conflict between new ideas and ancient inequities led to political revolutions in America and France, and to cultural revolutions in industry, literature, philosophy and the arts. Students in this course study significant works by seventeenth and eighteenth century writers, thinkers and artists.

B. Course Effective Dates: 08/01/1998 - 09/05/1999 09/06/1999 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Analyze the influence of the European Enlightenment on contemporary Western culture at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

2. Apply Enlightenment philosophies to an analysis of European cultural history at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

3. Distinguish among important artistic and literary genres of the European Enlightenment at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

4. Distinguish among traditional periods and geographies of Europe's cultural history during the Enlightenment at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

5. Distinguish important themes and aesthetic characteristics in the literature and art of the European Enlightenment at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

6. Know characteristic institutions and achievements of the European Enlightenment at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

7. Know the outlines of the political and cultural history of Enlightenment Europe at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

8. Recognize, appreciate, and explain allusions to the Europe's Enlightenment at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

9. Understand the influence of the European Enlightenment on the origins of a Western cultural history in America at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)
Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies
   None

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts
1. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Engage in the creative process or interpretive performance.
4. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

G. Special Information

None