

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	CASS
Programme:	BA History
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Visualising Enlightenment: Art, Ideas & Material Culture 1685-1800
Course Code:	HST 6420
Course Leader:	Dr Michael F. Keating
Student Engagement Hours:	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures:	15
Seminar / Tutorials:	20
Case Study Sessions:	10
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall, Spring, Summer
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course considers the European Enlightenment through the cultural, visual and material transformations of the period. It enables students to reflect on how transformations in art, design and architecture were contemporaneous with changing conceptions of the public sphere, of the global as a space, of class, gender and race. The era saw a revolution in new consumer goods, critical debates about taste, and the corrupting influence of luxury. Students will engage with key works by Diderot, Mandeville, Rousseau, Shaftesbury, Voltaire and Wollstonecraft. Further, the course addresses engagements between Europe and the wider world. The course is designed to be interactive, with class visits to the British Museum and relevant exhibitions. It is international in focus, whilst taking advantage of London as a location.

Prerequisites:

HST 4100 or HST 4405 or AVC 4200 or SCL 4110 or PLT 4100

Aims and Objectives:

- To extend the historical and historiographical understanding of students with regard to the European Enlightenment, in a global context
- To engage students with the study of visual and material sources at a sophisticated level
- To investigate the interaction between the social and intellectual contexts of the Enlightenment, key themes and issues in the history of this period, and its visual and material culture
- To explore how Enlightenment art, objects and architecture can be analysed by historians and specialists in visual and material culture, and utilised as primary sources to enable understanding of the historical past
- To enhance historical and transferable skills (written and oral) through group discussion, presentations, exams, and research papers based upon a critical understanding of the visual and material culture of the Enlightenment and related secondary sources

Programme Outcomes:

6A(i); 6A(ii); 6B(i); 6B(ii); 6B(iv); 6C(i); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D(ii); 6D(iii); 6D(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the European Enlightenment, crossing multiple themes and spaces.
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the global context of the Enlightenment, and how it was shaped by contact with – and conceptions of – wider cultures.
- Demonstrate a critical engagement with the problems of constructing a cultural history through visual and material sources.
- Demonstrate a historiographical engagement with the Enlightenment, and the processes of continuity and change which this periodicity represents, with particular reference to its material and visual culture.
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key themes of Enlightenment history, critically engaging with the core (mis-)understandings of this period, with reference to knowledge from other disciplines engagement with the material and visual culture of this period.
- Take responsibility for their own learning in different learning environments, and complete assigned work with clarity, sophistication and cultural reflexivity appropriate for a 6000-level course.

- Demonstrates an ability to understand, evaluate and utilise artefacts of material and visual culture and effectively communicate their significance for the study of Enlightenment history.

Indicative Content:

- Social and intellectual contexts of the Enlightenment
- The public sphere
- The consumer revolution
- Luxury and taste
- Art, Design and Architecture
- Material culture
- Masculinity and femininity
- The Grand Tour
- The Atlantic slave trade
- Cross-cultural contact
- Revolution and the end of Enlightenment

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a particular topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion, and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning.

Bibliography:

- Berg, Maxine and Eger, Elizabeth (eds) *Luxury in the Eighteenth Century: Debates, Desires and Delectable Goods* (Basingstoke, 2003).
- Kramnick, Isaac (ed.) *The Portable Enlightenment Reader* (Harmondsworth, 1995).
- Russo, Elena, *Styles of Enlightenment: Taste, Politics and Authorship in Eighteenth-Century France* (Baltimore, 2007)
- Sweet, Rosemary, *Cities and the Grand Tour: The British in Italy, c. 1690-1820* (Cambridge, 2012).

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

