

Syllabus

PH412/HPa1 SPRING 2007
PHILOSOPHY OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT
Monday 4:00-7:00, room 424 Mugar
Honors section: Tuesday 2:00-3:00, STH 624
Senior Seminar

Professor Charles Griswold
Room 624, School of Theology
Office hours: Monday 2:30 -3:30; Tuesday 1-2; Wednesday 1-2; and by appointment
(griswold@bu.edu)

This seminar is a critical examination of one member of the family of philosophical and political movements that called itself "the Enlightenment." Our focus is Rousseau (1712-1778), and we will read several of his major texts (including the *Social Contract*, *Discourses*, *Emile*, *Reveries*, and selections from *Julie* as well as the *Confessions*). We will also consider the replies to Rousseau's criticisms of the Enlightenment offered by Hume and Smith. Prerequisite: two other philosophy courses in addition to PH 310 and 350, or consent of instructor. This is a seminar for undergraduate students only.

REQUIRED BOOKS (available at the University bookstore)

- 1) Rousseau, *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings*, ed. V. Gourevitch. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-42445-3 (or ISBN 978-0-5-2142445-5)
- 2) Rousseau, *Emile, or On Education*, trans. A. Bloom. Harper Pub/Basic books. ISBN 0465019315 (or ISBN 978-0-4-6501931-1)
- 3) Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Hackett Press, trans. D. Cress. ISBN 0872201627 (or ISBN 978-0-8-7220068-5)
- 4) Rousseau, *Reveries of the Solitary Walker*, trans. C. Butterworth. Hackett Press. ISBN 0872201627 (or ISBN 978-0-8-7220162-0)
- 5) Rousseau, *The Confessions*, ed. P. Coleman. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. ISBN 0192822756 (or ISBN 978-0-1-9282275-8).
- 6) Rousseau, *Julie, or the New Heloise*, trans. P. Stewart and J. Vaché, University Press of New England (1997). ISBN 0874518253 (or ISBN 978-0-8-7451825-2).

RECOMMENDED (also available at the University bookstore)

Griswold, C. *Adam Smith and the Virtues of Enlightenment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Hume, D. *Essays: Moral, Political, & Literary*. Ed. Miller. Indianapolis: Liberty Press, 1987. ISBN 978-0-8-6597056-4

Ignatieff, M. *The Needs of Strangers*. Picador Press: 1984 (VHPS). ISBN 978-0-3-1228180-9

Smith, A. *Essays on Philosophical Subjects*. Ed. Wightman. Rpt. Indianapolis: Liberty Press. ISBN 0865970238

Smith, A. *An Inquiry into the Wealth of Nations*. Ed. Campbell and Skinner. Rpt. Indianapolis: Liberty Press, 1976. ISBN 978-0-8-6597006-9

Smith, A., *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Ed. Raphael and Macfie. Rpt. Indianapolis: Liberty Press, 1982. ISBN 0865970122

RESERVE LIST FOR PH412 (MUGAR LIBRARY, 2 hour reserve)

Griswold, C. *Adam Smith and the Virtues of Enlightenment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Hume, D. *Essays: Moral, Political, & Literary*. Ed. Miller. Indianapolis: Liberty Press, 1987. ISBN 978-0-8-6597056-4

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SCHEDULE OF READINGS

[1] Jan. 22 *First Discourse*, pp. 3-28; the Introduction to the CUP volume, by Gourevitch (pp. ix–xxxi); and the “Preface to Narcissus,” pp. 92-106. (60 pages total) [originally published 1751]

[2] Jan. 29 *Second Discourse*, pp. 113-222. (108 pages total) [orig. publ. 1755]

[3] Feb. 5 *On the Social Contract* (pp. 17-103); also read the Editor's Introduction to our edition. (96 pages total) [orig. publ. 1762]

[4] Feb. 12

(a) David Hume's *Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* section III ("Of Justice"), pt. II (pp. 20-26 in the Hackett edition). Handout. (However, if you own the book, you may use it regardless of the edition.)

(b) D. Hume's *Essays: Moral, Political, & Literary*,

- Pt. I, essay XIV, "On the Rise and Progress of the Arts and Sciences," pp. 111-137;

- Pt. II, essay I, "Of Commerce," pp. 253-267; essay II, "Of Refinement in the Arts," pp. 268-280; essay XII, "Of the Original Contract," pp. 465-487; essay XVI, "Idea of a Perfect Commonwealth," pp. 512-529.

(111 pages total)

Feb. 19 class cancelled (university holiday)

[5] Feb. 20 = Monday schedule of classes.

(a) A. Smith's *Essays on Philosophical Subjects*, pp. 242-256

(b) A. Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, book V, pp. 788-814

(c) A. Smith's *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pt. I (pp. 9-66); pt. VI pp. 262-264; pt. VII pp. 314-317.

(102 pages total)

[6] Feb. 26 *Julie* Part I, pp. 3-154 (151 pp. total) [orig. publ. 1761]

[7] March 5 (a) *Julie* Part III, pp. 279-310; VI pp. 564-612 (end); and the Appendix, pp. 613-620. (86 pages total)

(b) *Confessions* bk. I (pp. 3-43), II (pp. 44-85). (80 pages total)
[written mostly 1769, posthumously published 1782-9]

[March 10-18, spring vacation]

[8] March 19 (a) *Confessions* bk. III, pp. 86-128; bk. XII, pp. 576-649 (includes the Appendix). (71 pages total)

(b) **paper due at the start of class**

[9] March 26 *Emile* books I and II (pp. 33-163). (133 pages total) [orig. publ. 1762]

[10] April 2 *Emile* book III, and part of IV (pp. 164-266). (102 pages total)

[11] April 9 *Emile* book IV (pp. 267-354). (87 pages total)

April 16 class cancelled (university holiday)

[12] April 18 = Monday schedule of classes.

Emile book V (pp. 357-480) (123 pages total)

[13] April 23 *Reveries* # 1-5 (pp. 1-73) [orig. publ. 1782, posthumously]

[14] April 30 *Reveries* # 6-10 (pp. 74-143). (69 pages total)

paper due May 7, by 4:00pm, in instructor's office.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

(a) two analytical-critical papers of five to six typed pages each are required (each worth 25% of the grade). They may be of a topic of your choice, except that the first paper must deal with issues arising the readings covered through March 19. The first paper is due at the start of class on March 19, and the second paper is due May 7 by 4:00 pm in my office. The second paper should address material covered since the March 19 class, but may of course be informed by the earlier material as well. Please discuss your paper topics with me well in advance of the due date.

(b) two very short oral presentation (of 3 to 5 minutes delivery time) during the semester, focused on a specific passage (a page, or a paragraph or two) from the reading assigned for the given class. In effect you will present, and then you will be expected to conduct a short discussion initiated by your presentation. 15% of the grade will be determined by each performance (presentation and conduct of ensuing discussion). You must review with me, a week before your presentation, the topic of the presentation (bring a short topic outline to that meeting). In your presentation, you may work from an outline, or simply read; but in either case, the 5 minute limit is inviolable. You will have to practice your delivery before the actual event. You should make every word count, and strive for clarity. Your remarks should be expository and analytical; in the ensuing discussion, you may be asked to assess the cogency of the text you have analyzed. After your in-class presentation, you may distribute it to the class, if you wish; a written version may be longer than that which you presented in-class.

(c) This seminar places significant emphasis on class participation; it is assumed that students will attend all sessions, and come prepared to contribute. The quality of your contribution will be reflected in your final grade for the course (20%).

The instructor reserves the right to emend the requirements and curriculum.

ODDS AND ENDS

The instructor does not give "incompletes" in the course and does not allow "late papers" unless a very convincing reason for doing so is offered (e.g., a written medical excuse). Note that according to the CAS policy on incompletes, work not completed within one calendar year following the end of the course automatically and irrevocably turns the final course grade into an "F". An "I" grade will not be accepted by the registrar unless the student fills out a special form, which is signed both by the student and the professor before the final grade for the course is submitted. The form specifies the work to be completed and the date by which it is to be completed. (This paragraph applies to undergraduate students.)

Please arrive to class on time. You are responsible for all the class discussions in addition to the assigned texts, whether or not you have an approved reason for missing a particular class. We will take a break half way through each seminar.