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Humanities 403, Fall 2009  
Age of Enlightenment


**Catalog description:** Literary, artistic, and intellectual achievements of European Enlightenment. Great cultural traditions and influences.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning IIC, Humanities required for non-majors.

**E-mail / Internet:** I make regular use of e-mail and the Internet in this class. Announcements, program changes, and most class materials (including this syllabus) are distributed via Blackboard for you to download. Therefore, it is necessary -- as necessary as your buying the textbook -- that you furnish the university a valid e-mail address and log on to Blackboard at least once a week. I'll go over materials in class as well, of course, but you may well miss them or receive them late if you're not routinely on-line. Please note: you must have access to PowerPoint to view my lectures notes on Blackboard. Finally, don't be concerned if you don't always receive a reply to any e-mail that you may send to me. I might simply deem it worth a collective rather than an individual response, as the issue raised might concern the whole class.

**Workload:** Two exams, two short papers. Typically, exams are short answer (fill-in blanks & brief essay questions) with some lecture slides to identify. One make-up session for a missed exam (1) is offered the last week of term, with different content and method, so think carefully if you decide to miss a regularly scheduled exam.

**Grades:** 35% term grade for each exam; 30% for all classwork: assigned papers, quizzes, and attendance. However, even a failing score can have some benefit (as opposed to a skipped exam, which will only earn you a zero), as I offer occasional extra-credit assignments such as guest lectures and theater outings, which can redeem even the worst score.

**Attendance & class participation:** I take roll every time and will look favorably on regular attendees who are on the cusp of two grades. My lectures mostly correspond to the textbook, but I do introduce other ideas as well, so be aware that anything touched upon in class or in the readings is fair game for an exam question. Before each exam, I'll provide a study guide and briefly go over the essential material expected. For all those reasons, you're encouraged to exchange e-mails and phone numbers with a few peers; you'll have a way to catch up if you miss class, and -- who knows? -- you may make a few new friends.

**Cheating & plagiarism:** Don't do it. Cribbing answers or using other people's ideas without giving them proper credit is both unethical and a serious breach of school rules. Depending on the severity of the offense, you'll certainly fail the assignment in question; you may also fail the course. In that case, the Dean will have more than a few sharp words for you as well. The same goes for disrupting an exam in any way.

**Class conduct:** While in class, you're expected to conduct yourselves as professionals. Informed questions and polite attention make for good participation; talking to your neighbor or chatting on the phone is obviously disruptive and will not be tolerated. **Mobiles off! No texting / cellphone use once class is in session; doing so will result in your being obliged to leave and take an absence for that day.** Late arrivals or those who have to leave early, please sit near the door and enter or exit quietly. Drinks and snacks are fine; just don't spill them.

**Special circumstances:** If you anticipate missing class for religious reasons or school athletic activities, please notify me about this in short order. More important, if you have a disability, let me know now and then contact Disabled Student Services immediately to sign up for whatever extra help to which you're entitled.
Course plan: All assignments and activities subject to change (modification / addition / deletion) if we get behind or find new topics to consider. Readings are due on the day assigned.

I  (8-24)  Campus opens for Fall 2009.
II (9-2)  Course introductions and policies. The Humanities -- what is a masterpiece?
III (9-9)  Labor Day furlough -- no class.
IV (9-16)  Lecture: The Protestant Reformation.
V (9-23)  Film, Luther (dir. Eric Till, 2003).
VI (9-30)  Chapter 20: The Age of the Baroque: Counter-Reformation & the Baroque Style. Luther papers due.
VII (10-7)  Mott the Hoople holiday -- no class.
VIII (10-14)  Chapter 21: Absolute Power & the Aristocratic Style (stop at 45):
IX (10-21)  Chapter 22: The Baroque in the Protestant North I (62-64; stop after John Donne).
XI (11-4)  Exam #1. Bring pen; review study guide beforehand.
XII (11-11)  Veteran's Day -- no class.
XIV (11-25)  Film Girl With a Pearl Earring (dir. Peter Webber, 2003).
XV (11-30)  Chapter 22: The Baroque in the Protestant North II (64-74). Pearl EX CR papers due.
XVII (12-16)  FINALS DAY. Bring pen; review study guide beforehand.