HUM 403 "AGE OF AND ENLIGHTENMENT"

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BOOKS REQUIRED:


Miguel de CERVANTES:  SELECTIONS FROM DON QUIJOTE. Applebaum E. (or any edition)

VOLTAIRE:  CANDIDE. Dover (or any edition)

Jean-Jacques ROUSSEAU: ON THE SOCIAL CONTRACT. Dover (or any edition)

(With reference to above mentioned books, I have ordered each of them in the least expensive edition - at times greatly shortened - available from our Campus bookstore. However, any edition is acceptable, since only your careful reading of these texts is of the essence.)

Our course is as fascinating as overwhelming in scope. We shall therefore proceed selectively (by necessity) through the many fields of history, arts, science, philosophy, music and literature of the periods between the 1550s until the French Revolution of 1789. While casting a detailed (but selective!) look at Europe's major achievements and calamities over some 250 decisive years, we should consider our efforts as a journey not only through the past but rather through ourselves. Anyone who might possibly feel or say "I don't care" would necessarily indicate that he or she does not care about themselves. Yet don't we call wish to live an existence connected to beauty, pleasure, and meaning?

Our textbook seems rather small at first sight, yet it contains not only the most basic facts but also provides hints and ideas for a great amount of additional reading/listening and inspiration. While studying this book is mandatory, your regular attendance in the classroom and your note-taking during our lectures will be the major key to your good understanding and academic success. You are also required to read three major PRIMARY TEXTS - all of them are philosophical-literary milestones of Western Civilization. You will write a PERSONAL READING REPORT (i.e. an analysis and evaluation of your very personal reading experience) of THREE pages minimum (printed, double spaced, one inch margins, font size 12 - like this syllabus...) on AT LEAST TWO of these three so very different books. This assignment is DUE on NOVEMBER 13th -