Tues: 4pm, J208

Prof. Nicholas Daly,
Dr Porscha Fermanis,
Prof. Anne Fogarty

ENG40720 Concepts of Modernity

1. (September 17) What is Enlightenment (PF)
2. The Romantic Critique of Enlightenment (PF)
3. The Twentieth-Century Critique of Enlightenment (PF)

4. (October 8) Victorian Responses to Industrial Modernity (ND)
5. Victorian Public Spheres (ND)
6. Twentieth-Century Accounts: Walter Benjamin and the Arcades (ND)

No classes Week of October 28: Reading Period

7. (November 5) Postmodernism (AF)
8. Psychoanalysis (AF)
9. Memory (AF)

Assessment: 5000-word essay due by noon, Friday, December 6. (This essay should also be uploaded to SafeAssign.

Weeks 1-3: Enlightenment and Modernity

Enlightenment and Modernity
Dr. Porscha Fermanis: porscha.fermanis@ucd.ie

Seminar 1: Enlightenment and Counter-Enlightenment
Immanuel Kant, ‘Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment’
J.J. Rousseau, Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men
Suggested secondary reading: Dorinda Outram, Enlightenment; James Schmidt, What is Enlightenment?

Seminar 2: The Romantic Critique of Enlightenment
Edmund Burke, Part II of A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful
P. B. Shelley, A Defence of Poetry
William Wordsworth, 'Preface' to *Lyrical Ballads*


**Seminar 3: The Twentieth-Century Critique of Enlightenment**

Theodore Adorno and Max Horkeimer, ‘The Concept of Enlightenment’ from *Dialectic of Enlightenment*

Michel Foucault, ‘What is Enlightenment’ from *The Foucault Reader* and ‘The Panopticon’ from *Discipline and Punishment*

Suggested secondary reading: David Held, *Introduction to Critical Theory: Horkheimer to Habermas*

**Selected Reading List**

**Seminar 1: Enlightenment**

Ernst Cassirer, *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment* (Princeton UP, 1951)


**Seminar 2: Romanticism**


Isaiah Berlin, *The Roots of Romanticism* (Chatto & Windus, 1999)


Frances Ferguson, *Solitude and the Sublime: Romanticism and the Aesthetics of Individuation* (Routledge, 1992)


**Seminar 3: Critique of Enlightenment**
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: Rebirth of the Prison* (Allen Lane, 1977)
--*The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* (Harvard UP, 1989)
Max Horkheimer and Theodore Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, trans J. Cumming
(Continuum, 1972)

**Weeks 4-6: Victorian Responses to Modernity (N. Daly)**

**Week 1: Victorian Critiques**
Thomas Carlyle, “Captains of Industry”, from *Past and Present*
Background reading; chapter on Victorian Culture and Industrial Modernity on Blackboard, under Module Documents.
The Carlyle and Ruskin pieces are widely anthologized, and available free online.

**Week 2: Popular Urban Culture and the Public Sphere**
Peter Bailey, *Popular Culture and Performance in the Victorian City* [chapter 6] available on Blackboard under Module Documents
Background reading: Michel de Certeau, excerpts from *The Practice of Everyday Life*.
Available on Blackboard under Module Documents
Week 3: **20th-Century Accounts of 19th-century Modernity.**
Walter Benjamin, “On Some Motifs in Baudelaire” and “Paris, Capital of the 19th Century”.
"Paris, Capital of the 19th Century” is available through JSTOR in *Perspecta*, Vol. 12, (1969), pp. 165-172. It’s also available in the Library in the collection *Reflections* and in the *The Arcades Project*, but there are only a few copies of these. "On Some Motifs in Baudelaire" is in the collection *Illuminations*. The library has multiple copies of this book in short and long loan collections. Suggested background reading: Susan Buck Morss, *The Dialectics of Seeing* (Library, short loan).

**Selected Reading List**


**Weeks 7-9: Postmodernism; Sexuality and the Body; Violence, Culture and Power (A. Fogarty)**

1. **Concepts of Modernity and Postmodernity: Culture and Ideology** (Theodor Adorno and Fredric Jameson)


2. **Sexuality and the Body: Redefining the Other** (Judith Butler and Luce Irigaray)


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**Violence, Culture and Power** (Giorgio Agamben and Slavoj Žižek)


