

Philosophy and Literature in the Age of Enlightenment

LIT 3400 | Fall 2017

Meeting times: T 4, R 4-5 | Classroom: Turlington 2346

Instructor: Roger Maioli

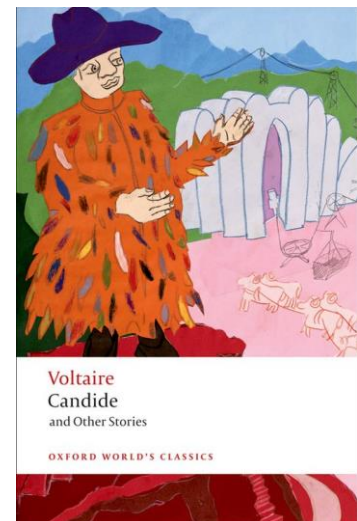
Email: rmaiolidossantos@ufl.edu

Office: Turlington Hall, 4338

Office hours: Tuesday 2-4 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The eighteenth century is sometimes described as the age when philosophy was made popular. Major thinkers like Voltaire and Diderot endeavored to introduce to the common reader the growing store of knowledge made available by the Enlightenment. In doing so, they avoided the use of Latin as the standard philosophical language as well as traditional expository genres such as the philosophical treatise; instead, they resorted to more accessible genres including short essays, encyclopedia entries, drama, and above all prose fiction. Voltaire, in particular, is responsible for consolidating the most characteristic Enlightenment genre: the philosophical tale, of which *Candide* is the maximum example. In this course we will consider the opportunities and problems inherent in using prose fiction as a vehicle for philosophical ideas. We will read Voltaire alongside other Enlightenment figures, including Fontenelle, Samuel Johnson, and Elizabeth Inchbald, and close by looking at a slightly later narrative which dramatizes the Enlightenment's ambitions and dangers: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. All readings will be done in English.



READINGS

We will be working with seven required texts. In Voltaire's case, **you MUST work with the edition listed below**. In other cases you may work with a different edition, but if you still need to buy a copy, I highly recommend buying the edition in the list below.

1) Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle, *Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds*, ed. Nina Rattner Gelbart (University of California Press, 1990).

ISBN: 0520071719

2) Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, ed. Claude Rawson (Oxford: OUP, 2005).

ISBN: 0199536848

3) Voltaire, *Candide and Other Stories*, ed. Roger Pearson (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

ISBN: 0199535612

4) Samuel Johnson, *The History of Rasselas*, ed. Thomas Keymer (Oxford: OUP, 2009).

ISBN: 019922997X

5) Denis Diderot, *The Nun*, ed. Russell Goulbourne (Oxford; OUP, 2005)

ISBN: 0199555249

6) Elizabeth Inchbald, *Nature and Art*, ed. Shawn Lisa Maurer (Broadview Press, 2004).

ISBN: 1551112787

7) Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, ed. M.K. Joseph (Oxford; OUP, 2008).

ISBN: 019953716X

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for this course fall under five heads: (a) attendance and participation, (b) quizzes, (c) weekly responses, (d) a midterm examination, and (e) a final essay. These five requirements will be weighed as follows:

Attendance and participation:	20%
Quizzes:	20%
Weekly responses:	20%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final essay:	20%

Final grades, in turn, will be based on the following scale:

	A	93–100	A-	90–92.9	
B+	87–89.9	B	83–86.9	B-	80–82.9
C+	77–79.9	C	73–76.9	C-	70–72.9
D+	67–69.9	D	63–66.9	D-	60–62.9
E	0–59.9				

Here are further details about each requirement:

a) Attendance and participation. You begin the semester with 88 points. You then get extra points for participating in class discussion and you lose points for any of the following reasons: disruptive behavior in class, undue use of the internet during class, or unexcused absences. With regard to the last item, you are entitled to two unexcused absences during the semester. (Absences on the first week of class count towards that total!) Each additional unexcused absence will reduce your Attendance and Participation score by a third of a letter — for instance, from 88 (B+) to 85 (B). **Important: Six or more unexcused absences will result in failure. Let me say this again: if you miss six classes without a justification, you will fail the course.**

b) Quizzes. There will be a total of seven quizzes, one on each of our main sources. Three of our quizzes will be about more than one source. Check the course schedule for specific dates. When calculating your final grade for the quizzes, I'll drop your two lowest scores. In other words, only your top 5 scores will count towards your final grade.

c) Weekly responses. Over the course of the semester you will write a series of short responses to the readings (150-200 words). These responses will be posted to Canvas starting the third week of class. I will be explaining them in class, but each response should do one of three things: offer a personal reading of a passage or text, identify a feature of the source that seems to call for an explanation, or pose a question for class discussion. Responses will not be graded for content, but regular submission counts for 20% of your grade. You are allowed to miss two of them.

d) Midterm exam. Take-home examination in which you will be asked to interpret and discuss passages from any texts studied so far. I will be saying more about it the week before.

e) Final essay. This will be a 4-5 page essay in which you will respond to one of several prompts I will provide you with. You will receive detailed instructions on this essay on Week 13. **The essay will be due on December 6 at 11:59 PM.** Late essays will lose a third of a letter grade per day that they are late.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TUESDAY (responses Group 1)	THURSDAY (responses Group 2)
1. Aug 22-3	Introduction	"The Enlightenment Reader" (handout on Canvas)
2. Aug 29-31	Fontenelle, 3-36 (<i>Conversations</i> , "Preface" to "Second Evening")	Fontenelle, 37-73 (<i>Conversations</i> , "Third Evening" to the end)
3. Sep 5-7	Quiz 1, on "The Enlightenment Reader" and Fontenelle's <i>Conversations</i> Swift, 11-72 (<i>Gulliver</i> , Part I; skip the "Letter" on pages 7-10 for now)	Swift, 75-137 (<i>Gulliver</i> , Part II)
4. Sep 12-14	Swift, 141-203 (<i>Gulliver</i> , Part III)	Swift, 207-277 + 7-10 (<i>Gulliver</i> , Part IV + "Letter")
5. Sep 19-21	Quiz 2, on <i>Gulliver</i> Voltaire, 107-146 (<i>Zadig</i> , beginning to Chapter 13)	Voltaire, 147-177 (<i>Zadig</i> , Chapter 14 to the end)
6. Sep 26-8	"The Problem of Evil" (handout on Canvas)	Voltaire, 1-39 (<i>Candide</i> , Chapters 1-16)
7. Oct 3-5	Voltaire, 39-54 (<i>Candide</i> , Chapters 17-21)	Voltaire, 54-88 (<i>Candide</i> , Chapters 22-30)
8. Oct 10-12	Quiz 3, on "The Problem of Evil" and <i>Candide</i> Johnson, 7-53 (<i>Rasselas</i> , Chapters 1-22)	Johnson, 54-109 (<i>Rasselas</i> , Chapters 23-49)
9. Oct 17-19	Voltaire, 190-217 (<i>The Ingenu</i> , Chapters 1-9)	Voltaire, 217-253 (<i>The Ingenu</i> , Chapters 10-20)
10. Oct 24-26	Take-home exam	Quiz 4, on <i>Rasselas</i> and <i>The Ingenu</i> Hand in take-home exam Diderot, 1-48
11. Oct 31, Nov 2	Diderot, 49-91	Diderot, 91-178

12. Nov 7-9	Quiz 5, on <i>The Nun</i> Inchbald, 41-80 (<i>Nature and Art</i> , Chapters 1-20)	Inchbald, 80-109 (<i>Nature and Art</i> , Chapters 21-28)
13. Nov 14-16	No class meeting.	Essay guidelines: don't miss! Inchbald, 110-154 (<i>Nature and Art</i> , Chapters 29-47)
14. Nov 21	Quiz 6, on <i>Nature and Art</i> Shelley, 5-56 (<i>Frankenstein</i> , beginning to Chapter 4)	THANKSGIVING
15. Nov 28-30	Shelley, 57-144 (<i>Frankenstein</i> , Chapters 5-16)	Shelley, 145-223 (<i>Frankenstein</i> , Chapters 17 to the end)
16. Apr Dec 5	Quiz 7, on <i>Frankenstein</i> CONCLUSION	Final paper due on December 6, at 11:59 PM.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICY

Cellphones and computers: Cellphones are strictly prohibited and should be kept turned off and out of sight during class. Computers are allowed with the wi-fi feature off. You may not access the internet in class, but you may use your computer for taking notes during lecture or for consulting electronic versions of the texts under discussion. Download all internet texts prior to use in class, so you can access them offline. All other uses are prohibited.

Punctuality: I will take attendance at the beginning of class. If you are not in class at that point, you will be counted as absent.

Plagiarism: All written assignments should be your own work. Plagiarizing the work of others (by copying printed or online sources without acknowledgement) is illegal, and you may fail the course if you plagiarize. If you have questions about how to document your sources, or if you want to make sure you are not committing plagiarism without realizing it, please ask me.

Special accommodations: Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Service in order to determine appropriate accommodation. I will be pleased to provide accommodation, but students are responsible for notifying me at the beginning of the semester.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center.

Sexual Assault and Harassment: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are civil rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:

http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/faculty_staff/fees_resources_policies/addressing_sexual_misconduct/reporting_sexual_misconduct/