

RELIGION, ART, AESTHETICS: ENLIGHTENMENT

REL 595

Zachary Braiterman

Spring 2008

W 9:30-12:45, HL 504

office hrs.:

509 HL

T 2-3

or by appt.

x5719

zbraiter@syr.edu

Germans, Jews, Greeks, and Hebrews --the focus of this class will be on the 18th century German Enlightenment; ideal for students interested in the history of philosophy, modern religion, and theoretical aesthetics, as well in the intersection of religion and politics. It is the instructor's hope to develop a more robust notion of the Enlightenment than its critics typically offer. Topics include the interface between sensation, imagination, and reason; religion and the state; natural right and religious tolerance; Greek sculpture and the interpretation of Scripture; revelation and history; aesthetics and ethics; the beautiful and sublime in religion, art, and philosophy.

Course Requirements

Class participation

Weekly Critiques (1 page) (required, but not for credit)

Mid-term paper (5 pages)

Final paper (12-15 pages)

Required Texts:

Winckelmann, *Reflections On The Painting And Sculpture Of The Greeks: With Instructions For The Connoisseur, And An Essay On Grace In Works Of Art*

Lessing, *Philosophical and Theological Writings*

Lessing, *Nathan the Wise, Minna Von Barnhelm, and Other Plays and Writings*

Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem: Or on Religious Power and Judaism*

Kant, *Critique of Judgment*

Graduate students must read on their own Ernst Cassirer, *The Philosophy of Enlightenment*, which they can purchase cheaply at Amazon.com.

I also recommend that graduate students purchase:

Hamann, *Writings on Philosophy and Language*

Herder, *Philosophical Writings*

1/14 Intro

Read in class: "What is Enlightenment?" by Mendelssohn, Kant

- 1/21 Winkelmann
Neoclassicism, readings TBA
- 1/28 Shaftesbury, TBA
- 2/4 Lessing Theological Writings
2/11 Lessing, Nathan the Wise
- 2/18 Mend. Aesthetic Writings, TBA
Phaedon selections, TBA
- 2/25 Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem*, part 1
Mendelssohn, part 2
- 3/4 Finish Mendelssohn *Jerusalem* or TBA
- 3/18 "The pantheism controversy," TBA
- 3/25 Herder, selections from *Ideas*, TBA
4/1 Herder, selections from *On the Spirit of Hebrew Poetry*, TBA
- 4/8 NO CLASS
4/15 NO CLASS (need to reschedule)
- 4/22 Hamann, TBA
- TBA (reschedule) Kant's 3rd Critique
4/29 (rescheduled from 4/15) Kant' 3rd Critique