

HONS 2103 - Colloquium on the Early Modern World Fall 2020

This course takes us from the period of the Protestant Reformation through the first several decades of the nineteenth century. An important aim of the course will be to try to understand what we mean when we speak of the "modern" world. What is it that makes our world "modern"? How did it come about? We will trace the development of the notion of "modernity" as that term is broadly understood: in historical, social, economic, political, religious, philosophical, scientific, and literary terms. As is the case with all four of the Honors colloquia, we are guided in our reading by two overarching questions or themes: 1. What does it mean to be human, and what are the social, political, economic, and cultural consequences that flow from such an understanding? 2. What counts for knowledge?

This course is a colloquium, which means its purpose is to investigate through the discussion of ideas. Your professors will certainly do their part, but we also expect students to take responsibility for the class. That means – among other things – being actively engaged in discussion. The best way to take this course is to come every day having done the assignment, with an open mind and lively curiosity, and with a readiness to engage, discuss, inquire, question, or think aloud.

Like the other Honors Colloquia, this course is team-taught. Your instructors are (for Section HA) Dr. Mary Balkun (Ph.D., English) & Dr. Edgar Valdez (Ph.D., Philosophy) and (for Section HB) Dr. Mark Molesky, (Ph.D, History) & Dr. Dermot Quinn (D.Phil, History). Please don't hesitate to contact us if there is something you would like to discuss.

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Important reminders during the pandemic:

Given our current situation, we all have to adapt and to follow certain practices in order to help preserve the well-being of others as well as ourselves. You may already be familiar with much of what follows, but for the safety of all it bears repeating here.

1. Masks must be worn in the classroom at all times. If you do not have a mask on you will not be permitted to enter the classroom. Masks need to cover your nose and your mouth, and they need to be in place before entering not only the classroom, but the building in which class takes place. Likewise, when a break is given in class, do not slip down your mask until you are in a location where the university allows masks to be removed. Although it may be inferred that the requirement to wear a mask disallows the eating and drinking of food during class, let it be stated here explicitly that eating and drinking during class is prohibited.

2. Chairs in classrooms have been arranged in a manner to preserve required social distancing, so do not move or rearrange them.

3. Do not come to the classroom on days when you are not scheduled to be there. The number of seats in each classroom has been determined for safety reasons according to state regulations. We are not permitted to have more than the designated number of people in the room.

4. Matters having to do with class attendance and class participation can be found below under course requirements.

5. As the semester continues, and if things seem to be going along smoothly, we may be tempted to relax our observance of these requirements. But out of regard for the welfare of all, this must not happen. Wearing a mask is annoying, intrusive, and uncomfortable; but it is not going to be a permanent feature of your college experience, and during this pandemic it is necessary. For the sake of the common good, we must all do what is required of us for the duration of the semester.

Required Texts:

- Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West (Columbia UP) – ISBN 9780231024235 *You should have this already from the second colloquium.*
- The Communist Manifesto and Other Revolutionary Writings, ed. Bob Blaisdell (Dover) – ISBN 9780486424651 *This text will be used in the fourth colloquium as well*
- Potter, Readings in Epistemology (Fordham UP) – ISBN 9780823214921
- Sources of Chinese Tradition, Volume 2, ed. deBary & Lufrano (Columbia UP) – ISBN 9780231112710 *This text will be used in the fourth colloquium as well*
- Norton Anthology of World Literature, third edition Vol. C, Ed. Puchner (Norton) – ISBN 9780393933659 *You should have this already if you purchased the 3 volume set for class in freshmen year. Since we suggested to them that they buy the 3rd edition as freshmen, we should stick with that. Next year's sophomores will have been advised to purchase the 3 volume set of the 4th Edition so we could switch next year.*
- Frankenstein, Mary Shelley w/introduction and notes by Karen Karbiener (Barnes & Noble Classics) – ISBN 978-1593081157
- Course Packet (*to be distributed in class – cost tbd*)

You are responsible for having hard copies of the texts with you in class on the days that they are discussed. You are also responsible for keeping track of all changes, including changes to the readings that have been announced in class or by email.

Course Objectives and Requirements:

1. Through the study of primary texts, to be able to understand the emergence and development of the modern world;
2. To discuss the principal ideas embodied in the texts we have studied;
3. To understand these ideas in their historical contexts, and to be able to compare them with each other;
4. To analyze a primary text and to be able to defend your interpretation based upon the primary source itself;
5. To be able to follow and explain an author's argument or point of view;
6. To compare texts and draw conclusions on the basis of close reading and critical analysis.

Proficiencies

This course satisfies the requirements for both the Critical Thinking and the Reading/Writing proficiencies, which are required as part of the University Core Curriculum. In addition to the content, subject matter, and themes of the course, it is also crucial to develop those skills and practices that help us to develop our abilities to read carefully, understand precisely, and articulate our insights clearly. Not only are these skills cross-disciplinary; they are an essential component in our development as intelligent persons.

To satisfy the requirements for the Reading/Writing proficiency a course must include a significant amount of writing. We are committed to helping students become good writers, and the requirements for this Colloquium have been designed with this goal in mind. Readings for the course are taken entirely from primary sources. This is based on the conviction that it is good to read and analyze the authors' own words,

rather than beginning with what others have written about them. A goal of the course is to increase your ability and confidence in being able to read, analyze, and write about primary texts.

It is one thing to run your eyes over the words on a page; it is quite another to read attentively and critically. The Critical Thinking proficiency is geared toward developing your abilities to understand and think through the course readings. This means, among other things, learning to read texts carefully, being able to follow the author's train of thought, becoming attentive to nuance within a text, and being able to articulate your insights clearly and precisely, both in your writing and in class discussion. Critical thinking also means raising questions about what an author has to say. Is the author's point convincing? Why or why not? How does a particular author's point of view compare with that of another author dealing with the same issue? Who do you think is right? Not only is critical thinking an essential component in reading texts; it is also necessary to apply to your own writing, so that what you write comes across as clear, well-organized, and coherent. A number of course assignments are aimed at helping you develop the practice of critical thinking.

Violations of Academic Integrity

CHEATING means the giving, receiving, taking, or purchasing of any information or written work not your own during exams or on any written assignments.

PLAGIARISM means copying the ideas and/or language of any source without acknowledging that source, without proper quotation of any language (even single words or short phrases) taken directly from that source, and without citation of all paraphrased as well as quoted ideas from that source. Plagiarism occurs when anyone attempts to present the published or unpublished work (ideas and/or language) of any person as his or her own.

PENALTIES: To be determined at the discretion of your instructors. Among the possibilities would be that those found to be guilty of cheating or plagiarism the first time would receive a 0 (zero) for the assignment; the second time, automatic failure for the course; the third time, recommendation to the dean for expulsion.

Disability Services Statement: Students at Seton Hall University who have a physical, medical, learning or psychiatric disability, either temporary or permanent, may be eligible for reasonable accommodations at the University as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In order to receive such accommodations, students must identify themselves at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), provide appropriate documentation and collaborate with the development of an accommodation plan. The DSS phone number is 973-313-6003. For further information, please go to <http://studentaffairs.shu.edu/health/DisabilitySupportServices.html>.

Course Requirements

1. **Participation:** Class participation counts for 20% of your final grade. This course is meant to be a genuine colloquium: an ongoing conversation about the readings and the questions that arise from them. Your preparation for each conversation will include your reading the assigned text(s) before the class. Obviously, active participation is important in this type of class, and each person's input is valuable. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings, even if that means just asking relevant questions about material you did not understand. Come to class prepared to be active and engaged. The participation grade depends on both the quality and the quantity of your participation.

Obviously the most basic form of class participation is regular attendance. Attendance is mandatory, whether you're taking the class in person, HyFlex, or remotely. If you are not going to be in class on any given day, whether in person or in TEAMS, we expect an email from you explaining why you are unable to attend.

Unless you are ill or have cleared it with your professors, you are expected to be in the classroom on your classroom day. On your remote day, you are expected to attend on TEAMS. If, for reasons of health, self-quarantine, or some other obstruction, you need to attend remotely on a day you're scheduled to be in class, you need to email your professors ahead of time, and you will be expected to attend class in TEAMS. The TEAMS session will begin and end at the same time as the in-person meeting of the class. Those attending remotely will be expected to arrive on time, stay for the entire class, and participate along with those in the classroom.

Those who miss either half of class will be considered absent for the entire class. In cases of an extended absence (due to serious illness or emergency) you must notify the Office of Student Affairs so that the office can notify your professors. As a rule, please contact the Office of Student Affairs if you expect to be out for more than 3 consecutive classes. If you are a student athlete, please speak to your professor about how many classes you may need to miss for sporting events. The Athletic Department will reach out to your professor. If you stop attending class, it does not mean you have withdrawn from the course. In order to withdraw you have to fill out a withdrawal form (obtainable from the dean's office or the Honors office). Non-attendance is not withdrawal. Being late 3 times is the equivalent of one absence. This includes returning to class late after the break. Chronic lateness is disrespectful and disruptive of the learning process. While a break is given during class, the timing of the break is at the discretion of your professors. Please take care of personal matters before class (e.g., bathroom, meals, etc.); apart from an emergency there is no good reason to get up and leave the classroom while class is going on. Regardless of the reason (with the exception of those absences for which your professors have received notification from Student Affairs), more than 4 absences will result in a failing grade for class participation; more than 7 absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Since this is a text-based class, having the required texts with you in class is essential – it is not optional. Bring the necessary hard copies of the texts with you to class and have them with you if you are attending class remotely; failure to do so will negatively affect your grade, since it indicates a lack of preparedness. Doing work for other classes during this class is unacceptable. Aside from devices used for remote access to the classroom, electronic devices (laptops, etc.) may not be used while physically present in the classroom. Please silence your cell phones before class, put them out of sight and do not check for text messages. Texting is appropriate during your private time, but it is disrespectful toward your classmates and teachers when done in class.

Whether in the classroom or attending remotely, our class is a form of community. This includes seeing one another. Online learning will be part of our lives this semester. The expectation is that you will have your camera turned on during class time. Feel free to blur your background or use either one of the backgrounds provided by TEAMS or a photograph you upload yourself. Please be sure to turn your microphone on when you're trying to speak. Otherwise, while class is going on, please mute your microphone so that any background noises don't interrupt the class discussion.

Please check your SHU email account, notifications on Microsoft Teams, Blackboard Assignments, etc. --at least once a day--so as to keep regular pace with the class. Please always check before class and before leaving the house/your dorm room to attend class, in case the instructor has needed to run the class remotely on any given day. You are responsible on a daily basis to keep up to date with what is happening in our class.

Criteria for evaluating class participation	Grade range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participates actively and voluntarily every class by contributing to classroom discussion - demonstrates familiarity with readings - insightful - answers questions knowledgeably - asks questions relevant to readings and displaying intellectual curiosity - always brings relevant texts to class - responds to others' comments with respect and interest - takes responsibility for the success of the class on a daily basis 	<p>A</p> <p>(if all of these criteria are met most of the time)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participates voluntarily and actively most days and at least every week - shows some familiarity with readings - always brings relevant texts to class 	<p>B</p> <p>(if all these criteria are met most of the time)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participates occasionally and/or usually only when called upon - shows some familiarity with readings, but little specific knowledge - does not always have relevant texts in class 	<p>C</p> <p>(if one or more of these criteria are present)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in general, responds only when called upon - does not ask or answer questions - does not always seem prepared - does not always have relevant texts in class - takes no discernible active role in class - comes late to class - brings food to class, checks cell phone, does work for other classes - shows lack of respect to classmates or teacher 	<p>D – F</p> <p>(if one or more of these criteria are present)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has more than the equivalent of 3 absences 	<p>F</p>

Volunteering to read in class is helpful and welcome, but it is no substitute for active class participation.

2. Quizzes (20%) There will be a quiz every class. No make-ups on quizzes without documentation from a medical professional. Quizzes must be made up within a week of the date of the missed quiz.

3. Papers (20%) Three 5-6-page papers will be assigned during the course of the semester, requiring you to analyze one or more of the primary sources we will be reading for class. You will be given a list of topics from which to choose. These are not a research papers; the goal is to be able to understand the author(s) accurately and to write about the question clearly and with nuance, while being able to substantiate your interpretation by careful and thorough use of textual citations. Papers must be submitted by the end of class on the date is due. Papers submitted after class will be considered late. Do not place papers in your professors' mailboxes or under their office doors.

4. Tests (20%) Three tests will be given during the semester. These tests will involve identification of passages taken from the primary texts we have read, and you will be required to name the author, the work from which it is taken, and to explain what it means in its context.

5. Final Exam (20%) The final exam for the course will be oral. It will be based upon comprehensive questions provided in advance. Individual exam appointments will be arranged, and the exams will be offered at several times during the final exam period.

Grading scale

93-100 A	90-92 A-	86-89 B +	83-85 B	80-82 B-
76-79 C +	73-75 C	70-72 C-	66-69 D +	63-65 D
60-62 D-	0-59 F			

Course Schedule

Tues., 8/25	What's modern about the modern world? The World of the Reformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luther, <i>On Christian Liberty</i> (Introduction to Contemporary Civilizations in the West (hereafter, ICCW), pp. 717-728 Luther, <i>Address to the Nobility of the German Nation</i> (ICCW 702-704, 713-17); "On Temporal Authority" (Course packet, hereafter CP 1-4)
Thurs. 8/27	The Reformation of the World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> (ICCW 731-740) Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> (ICCW 741-751) St. Ignatius of Loyola, <i>Thinking with the Church</i> (ICCW 768-773)
Tues., 9/1	An Encounter of Cultures: New Spain and New France <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queen Isabella: Last Will and Testament, and codicil (extract) (CP 5-9) Instructions to Nicolas de Ovanda, Governor of Hispaniola, from King Ferdinand and Isabella, 1501 (CP 10-11) Sepulveda, <i>Democrates Alter</i> (ICCW 523-529) Las Casas, <i>Apologetic History of the Indies, Thirty Very Juridical Propositions, A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies</i> (ICCW 530-43) (Norton Anthology of World Literature, hereafter NAWL 566-571) <i>The Jesuit Relations</i> (CP12-22)
Thurs., 9/3	Early modern England and France: Divine Right or Democracy? <u>England</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queen Elizabeth I speech to the troops at Tilbury, 1588 (CP 23) King James I, The Trew Law of Free Monarchies (ICCW 923-931) "An Agreement of the People" (ICCW 941-957)

	<u>France</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardinal Richelieu, Political Testament (ICCW 867-871) • Extracts from Jean Baptiste Colbert (ICCW 890-894)
Tues. 9/8	A New Science of Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> (ICCW 961-972, 979-993)
Thurs. 9/10	Late Ming and Early Qing China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese responses to early Christian contacts (Sources of Chinese Tradition, Volume II, hereafter SCT 142-154) • The Chinese Rites Controversy (CP 24-25) • Huang Zongxi, <i>Waiting for the Dawn</i> (SCT 4-12) • Wang Fuzhi, selections (SCT 26-35)
Tues., 9/15	Politics and Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> (ICCW 1010-1025, 1032-1039, 1044-1053)
Thurs., 9/17	A Revolution in Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacon, <i>Novum Organum, The Advancement of Learning</i> (CP 26) (Readings in Epistemology, hereafter RE 3-10) • Galileo, <i>The Assayer, Letter to Grand Duchess Christina</i> (ICCW 786-799) • Bellarmine, "Letter on Galileo's Theories" (CP 27-28) • Newton, <i>Principia</i>, (ICCW 849-852) First Paper Due
Tues., 9/22	Rationalism and Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method, Meditations on the First Philosophy</i> (RE 19-33, 35-43, 46-53)
Thurs. 9/24	Europeans and Ottomans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De Busbecq, <i>The Turkish Letters</i> (CP 29-30) • Celebi, <i>The Book of Travels</i> (NAWL 84-92) • Lady Montagu, <i>Turkish Embassy Letters</i> (31-38) • Pasha, <i>The Book of Counsel for Viziers and Governors</i> (CP 39-43) • Status of Christians & Jews 1772 (43-45) Test 1 (Take home)

Tues., 9/29	Study Day
Thurs. 10/1	Has modern society made us better? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, <i>What is Enlightenment</i>, 1784 (CP 46-50) • Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origins of Inequality</i>, <i>The Social Contract</i>, (The Communist Manifesto and Other Revolutionary Writings, hereafter CMRW 1-19, ICCW 1269-1282, 1295-1306)
Tues., 10/6	Empiricism and Skepticism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> (RE 129-152)
Thurs., 10/8	Reason and Its Limits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, <i>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics</i>, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, Preface to the First Edition, Preface to the Second Edition (RE 155-171, 188-201)
Tues., 10/13	Qing China: tradition and adaptation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sacred Edict (SCT 70-72) • Chen Hongmou, selections (SCT 156-168) • Hong Liangji, selections (SCT 172-179) • Emperor Qian Long, "Letter to King George III" (CP 51-53)
Thurs 10/15	Money and Morals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smith, <i>The Theory of Moral Sentiments</i>, <i>The Wealth of Nations</i> (CP 54-58), (ICCW 1314-1333)
Tues. 10/20	Revolution: Those Unruly Colonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paine, "Appendix to <i>Common Sense</i>" (CMRW 56-62) • Jefferson, "A Summary View of the Rights of British America (CMRW 41-55) • Gordon and Trenchard, <i>Cato's Letters</i> (CP 59-65)
Thurs. 10/22	Revolution: Liberté, égalité, fraternité! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sieyes, <i>What Is The Third Estate?</i> (CMRW 70-74) • Decree upon the National Assembly (CMRW 75-76) • The Tennis Court Oath (CMRW 77-78) • Marat, "Are We Undone?" (CMRW 82-84) • "La Marseillaise" (CP 66-67) Second paper due

Tues., 10/27	A Godly Revolution? Virtue, Terror and Slavery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> (68-74) • Robespierre, “Speech on the Festival of the Supreme Being” (CP 75-76) • Babeuf, “Analysis of the Doctrine of Babeuf”(CMRW 96-97) • Ottabah Cugoana, “Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery” (CP 77-80) Test 2 (Take Home)
Thurs., 10/29	Study Day -
Tues., 11/3	Rights Talk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Declaration of Independence (CMORW 63-66) • Madison, <i>The Federalist</i>, no. 10 (ICCW 1307-1313) • The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (CMORW 79-81) • Wollstonecraft, <i>The Vindication of the Rights of Women</i> (81-86)
Thurs., 11/5	The Romantic Sensibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rousseau, <i>The Confessions</i> (CP 87) • Wordsworth “Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey...” (CP 88-91) • John Keats, Ode to Autumn (CP 92) • Margaret Fuller, “Meditations” and “Flaxman” (CP 93-95) • Goethe, <i>Poetry and Truth, Conversations with Eckermann</i> (CP 96-99)
Tues., 11/10	Romanticism and Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Shelley, <u>Frankenstein</u> w/introduction and notes by Karen Karbiener (Barnes & Noble Classics) – ISBN 978-1593081157
Thurs., 11/12	Napoleon and the Emergence of Nationalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DeMaistre, <i>Considerations on France, Study on Sovereignty</i> (CP 100-101) • Fichte, <i>Addresses to the German Nation</i> (CP 102-104) • Hegel, <i>Introduction to the Philosophy of History</i> (CP 105-109) • Bolivar, <i>Address to the Congress of Angostura</i>, 1819 (CP110-116)

Tues., 11/17	Modernity and the Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Wahhab, <i>The History and Doctrines of the Wahhabis</i> (CP 117-121) • Ottoman Imperial Proclamation “The French Revolution Refuted” (CP 122) • Al-Jabarti, <i>Chronicles</i> (CP 123-133) • Al-Tahtawi, <i>The Extraction of Gold or an Overview of Paris, The Honest Guide for Girls and Boys</i> (CP 134-140) • The Gülhane Decree (CP 141-144)
Thurs. 11/19	Socialism and Anarchism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Owen, “The Legacy of Robert Owen to the Population of the World” (CMORW 98-101) • Owen, <i>A New View of Society</i> (CP 145-150) • Fourier, <i>Theory of Social Organization</i> (CP151-152) • Proudhon - selections (CP 153-157) • Considerant, <i>Principles of Socialism</i> (CP 158-160) <p>Third paper due</p>
Tues., 11/24	The ambivalence of modern democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i>, selections (CP 161-175) <p>Test 3 (Take home)</p>