COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Social Sciences and Humanities

Programme: International History
Art History and Visual Culture

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: Visualising Enlightenment: Art,
Ideas & Material Culture 1685-1800

Course Code: HST 6103

Student Engagement Hours: 160

Lectures: 15
Seminar / Tutorials: 20
Case Study Sessions: 10
Supervision: 40
Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Credits: 16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:
This course considers the European Enlightenment through the cultural, visual and material transformations of the period. It enables students to reflect on how transformations in art, design and architecture were contemporaneous with changing conceptions of the public sphere, of the global as a space, of class, gender and race. The era saw a revolution in new consumer goods, critical debates about taste, and the corrupting influence of luxury. Students will engage with key works by Diderot, Mandeville, Rousseau, Shaftesbury, Voltaire and Wollstonecraft. Further, the course addresses engagements between Europe and the wider world. The course is designed to be interactive, with class visits to the British Museum and relevant exhibitions. It is international in focus, whilst taking advantage of London as a location.

Prerequisites:
One of the following:
HST 5210 Of Myths and Monsters - A History of History
SCL 5200 Social Research
PLT 5201 Research Methods: Social Sciences
AVC 5215 Art History Theory & Methods
HST 4405 History of Fashion
AVC 4200 Introduction to Art across Cultures
AVC 4205 Introduction to Visual Culture

Aims and Objectives:
- To investigate the interaction between the social and intellectual contexts of the European Enlightenment in a global context, the key themes, and issues in the history of this period, and its visual and material culture
- To explore how Enlightenment art, objects and architecture can be analysed and utilised by historians and specialists in visual and material culture
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of international history
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in international history
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

International History: A6(i); A6(iii); B6(i); B6(ii); C6(i); C6(iii); C6(iv); D6(ii); D6(iii); D6(iv)
Art History and Visual Culture: A6(i); A6(ii); B6(i); C6(i-iii), D6(i), D6(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.
This is maintained by Registry and located at:
http://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the European Enlightenment, crossing multiple themes and spaces.
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the global context of the Enlightenment, and how it was shaped by contact with – and conceptions of – wider cultures.
- Demonstrate a critical engagement with the problems of constructing a cultural history through visual and material sources.
- Demonstrate a historiographical engagement with the Enlightenment, and the processes of continuity and change which this periodicity represents, with particular reference to its material and visual culture.
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key themes of Enlightenment history, critically engaging with the core (mis-)understandings of this period, with reference to knowledge from other disciplines engagement with the material and visual culture of this period.
- Take responsibility for their own learning in different learning environments, and complete assigned work with clarity, sophistication, and cultural reflexivity appropriate for a 6000-level course.
- Demonstrates an ability to understand, evaluate and utilise artefacts of material and visual culture and effectively communicate their significance for the study of Enlightenment history.

Indicative Content:

- Social and intellectual contexts of the Enlightenment
- The public sphere
- The consumer revolution
- Luxury and taste
- Art, Design and Architecture
- Material culture
- Masculinity and femininity
- The Grand Tour
- The Atlantic slave trade
- Cross-cultural contact
- Revolution and the end of Enlightenment

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a particular topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion, and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning.

Indicative Texts:

Walsh, Linda, *A Guide to Eighteenth-Century Art* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2016)

Fitzpatrick, Martin, Jones, Peter, Knellwolf, Christa, and McCalman, Ian (eds), *The Enlightenment World* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2007)

Goodman, Dena & Norberg, Kathryn (eds), *Furnishing the Eighteenth Century: What Furniture Can Tell Us About the European & American Past* (New York & London: Routledge, c. 2007)

Snodin, Michael & Styles, John, *Design & the Decorative Arts: Georgian Britain 1714-1837* (London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 2004)

Goodman, Dena & Wellman, Kathleen (eds), *The Enlightenment* (Boston MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2003)

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	