Reading List:
Prévost, Manon Lescaut
Diderot, Jacques le fataliste et son maître
Laclos, Les liaisons dangereuses
Marivaux, Arlequin poli par l'amour and La Double Inconstance
Voltaire, Zaire
Beaumarchais, Le Mariage de Figaro
Rousseau, Les Confessions (I-IV)
Philosophical Misc.: Articles from the Encyclopédie; Poem: “Le Mondain”;
Diderot’s Supplément au voyage de Bougainville

This course examines works of the French Enlightenment both for their literary value and intellectual content. The 18th-century was a time of experimentation, cautious protest, and at times rhetorical zeal vis-à-vis societal values and institutions in dire need of reform and modernization. Through our study of the novel, theatre, and philosophical works we will trace the development and evolution of Enlightenment ideology and the literary language and forms used to promote it. Areas of investigation: libertinage; philosophe; privilège v. droit; individuation; autobiographie/autoportrait; the French Enlightenment in global context; evolution of the novel.

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FREN 900 Seminar:
Literature of the Enlightenment

Office: 303L Bailey
Hours: Wed 12:30-2:00PM and by appointment