FREN 770 – FRENCH LITERATURE OF THE 18TH CENTURY

This course will cover major literary works and movements of the French Enlightenment with an emphasis on the evolution of theatrical works and theory, political satire, and works of “sensibilité.” We shall deal with a good many works taken from the MA and PhD reading lists* in preparation for examinations such as:

Montesquieu, Lettres persanes (abridged edition)
Marivaux, Arlequin poli par l’amour, Le Prince travesti and one other play
Prévost, L’Histoire du chevalier Des Grieux et Manon Lescaut
Voltaire, Candide, and his theatre (Zaïre and one other play)
Diderot, Le Supplément au voyage de Bougainville and his critical work on theatre (theory of “le drame” see: Le Fils naturel)
Rousseau, Les Confessions (Books 1-5) and selections from La Nouvelle Héloïse
Beaumarchais, Le Mariage de Figaro

The course will be conducted as a seminar with student participation (discussion) a required component of the course. The research paper of 15-20 pp will be turned in at the end of the course.

* The above list is taking into account changes in the MA list (as of March 2012)