

# HONORS 2406 RENAISSANCE TO REVOLUTION LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE - SPRING 2021 CLASS TIME: M & W 4:00 P.M. TO 5:20 P.M.

Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request.

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

SECTION 1: FACE TO FACE/ HYBRID FORMAT (French House 218)

Prof. James Stoner

214 Stubbs Hall

Office hours Mondays 10:00-11:30 am, Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 pm, and by appointment (in person or via Zoom)

E-mail: [poston@lsu.edu](mailto:poston@lsu.edu)

SECTION 2: REMOTE FORMAT (Synchronous Lectures and Seminars via Zoom)

Prof. Carmela Mattza

308 Hodges Hall

Office hours Fridays 10:00 to noon via Zoom and by appointment.

E-mail: [cmattza@lsu.edu](mailto:cmattza@lsu.edu)

## 1. COURSE OVERVIEW

HNRS 2406 is an interdisciplinary course that explores European conceptions of the individual and the world during the eventful period between the Renaissance and the French Revolution.

HNRS 2406 will expand and deepen the knowledge students have acquired in HNRS 2000, Critical Analysis, by uncovering the historical and philosophical “back story” of contemporary debates that are shaping life in our time.

Classes will generally be divided into (1) a lecture on Mondays by one of the instructors on the week’s text, followed by (2) text-based discussion and debate on Wednesdays.

Because thoughtful discussion and debate—with each other, with professors, with authors and texts—are essential to the processes of critical analysis, regular attendance and active participation are expected. If you are unable to attend class, for whatever reason, notify your professor before the class begins.

## LSU COVID-19 STATEMENT

We remain under pandemic conditions and expect to be in this state for the entire semester. In order to consistently provide the highest quality LSU education, all students should follow current LSU guidelines. These include the following:

1. If you have any signs of illness, do not come to class.
2. In order to protect all campus community members, the University requires everyone to wear facemasks on campus. Failure to do so is a violation of the code of student conduct.
3. Wash hands with soap and water or clean with sanitizer frequently, and refrain from touching your face.
4. If you have to cough or sneeze unexpectedly, please be mindful of others nearby and cough or sneeze into your elbow or shield yourself the best you can.
5. If you have been exposed to others who have tested positive for COVID-19, self-quarantine consistent with current CDC guidelines.

## 2. REQUIRED TEXTS (Additional texts are posted on Moodle)

Students should purchase only these translations for use in HNRS 2406:

Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais, *The Figaro Trilogy*, trans. David Coward (Oxford World Classics)

Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote de la Mancha*, trans. Charles Jarvis (Oxford University Press)

Juana Inés de la Cruz, *Poems, Protest, and a Dream: Selected Writings* (Penguin)

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Edwin Curley (Hackett)

Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*, trans. Ted Humphreys (Hackett)

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Harvey Mansfield (Chicago)

J. J. Rousseau, *A Discourse on Inequality*, trans. Maurice Cranston (Penguin)

William Shakespeare, "The Tempest," ed. Barbara A. Mowat (Folger Library Edition)

Voltaire, *Candide, Zadig and Selected Stories*, trans. Donald Frame (Mass Market Paperbacks)

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, ed. P. Barnard (Hackett)

## 3. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

You will need to use LSU Zoom in order to attend Prof. Mattza's lectures and classes. This will require access to a webcam and microphone in order to actively participate in our seminars. Moodle is also required, and it runs on Windows, Linux, iOS, Android, or

any device with a web browser. For information on browsers, please visit the LSU ITS Web Browser Recommendation page. Google Chrome and Firefox are the recommended browsers for Moodle 3.7 at LSU. Please go to the final page to get tips and guidelines to optimize your Zoom experience in class.

## 4. INTEGRATIVE LEARNING CORE AND GENERAL EDUCATION

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BoR Area of Humanities and Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Inquiry and Analysis

## 5. WEEKLY READINGS AND DISCUSSION

Week 1 (Jan. 11)

The Many Worlds of 1500

Jan 11

Lecture (Mattza & Stoner): Course Presentation

Jan 13

Lecture (Stoner): Imagining a Better Place

READING: More, *Utopia*, book I

Week 2: (Jan. 18)

Utopian Visions

Jan 18

No class, Martin Luther King Day. National holiday.

Jan 20

Seminar discussion

READING: More, *Utopia*, book II

Week 3: (Jan. 25)

Real Worlds and their Rulers - I

Jan 25

Lecture (Stoner): Ruling Real Places

Jan 27

Seminar discussion

READING: Machiavelli, *The Prince*

\*\*\*FRIDAY, Jan. 29 : ESSAY 1 DUE, 4:00 pm\*\*\*

Week 4: (Feb 1)

Real Worlds and their Rulers - II

Feb. 1

Lecture (Mattza): Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote* and the Italian Humanism

Feb. 3

Seminar discussion

READING: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, excerpts

Week 5: (Feb. 8)

Seeing Old and New Worlds

Feb. 8

Lecture (Mattza): A King for the Old and New Worlds

Feb. 10

Seminar discussion (*Life is a Dream*)

READING: Pedro Calderon de la Barca, *Life is a Dream*

Week 6: (Feb. 15)

Of Calderon and Shakespeare's New World

February 15

Lecture (Mattza): Shakespeare and the World

February 17

Seminar discussion (*The Tempest*)

READING: Shakespeare, "The Tempest"

Week 7: (Feb. 22)

Writing as Cultural Capital

February 22

Lecture (Mattza): Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz and the power of writing as cultural capital

February 24

Seminar discussion

READING: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, "Response to Sor Filotea"

Week 8: (Mar. 1)

The Scientific Revolution

March 1

Midterm exam

March 3

Lecture (Stoner): A New Understanding of Man

READING: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, author's intro., ch. 1-6

Week 9: (March 8)

The Rise of Absolutism

March 8

Lecture (Stoner): A New Understanding of Power

March 10

Seminar Discussion

READING: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 13-18, 21, 29-30

Week 10: (March 15)

Enlightenment I: The Free Individual

March 15

Lecture (Stoner): Liberty and Despotism

March 17

Seminar Discussion

READING: Voltaire, "Zadig"

\*\*\*FRIDAY, MARCH 19: ESSAY 2 DUE, 4:00 pm\*\*\*

Week 11: (March 22)

Enlightenment II: The Free Society

March 22

Lecture (Stoner): Equality and Inequality

March 24

Seminar discussion

READING: J. J. Rousseau, *A Discourse on Inequality*

Week 12: (March 29)

Enlightenment III: Knowledge

March 29

Lecture (Stoner): The Enlightened World

March 31

Seminar discussion

READING: Encyclopedia of Diderot & d'Alembert,  
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/title/L.html> Read the entries for: "Law of Nature,"  
"Luxury," "Man," "Natural Liberty," "Natural Religion," "Negroes" (read both entries),  
"Philosophy," and "Reason"

Week 13 (April 5)

The Old Regime

April 5

Lecture (Stoner): The New Man

April 7

Seminar Discussion

READING: Beaumarchais, "The Marriage of Figaro"

\*\*\*\*FRIDAY, APRIL 9: ESSAY 3 DUE, 4:00 pm\*\*\*\*

Week 14: (April 12)

Natural and Human Rights

April 12

Lecture (Mattza): The Rights of Man & Woman

April 14

Seminar Discussion

READING: "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen"; Mary Wollstonecraft,  
A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (selections); Olympe de Gouges,  
"Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Female Citizen"

Week 15: (April 19)

Utopian Futures

April 19

Lecture (Stoner): Revolution

April 21

Seminar discussion

READING: Kant, "Perpetual Peace"

## 6. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

3 Essays:	40%
• Essay 1 due Jan. 29,	10%
• Essay 2 due Mar. 19,	13%
• Essay 3 due Apr. 9,	17%
Class Participation (13 seminars)	20%

Midterm Exam (M, Mar. 1, during class)	15%
Final Exam (Th, Apr. 29, 5:30-7:30 pm)	25%

## 7. GRADING SCALE

A+ (98%-100%)  
A (93%-97%)  
A- (90%-92%)  
B+ (88%-90%)  
B (83%-87%)  
B- (80%-82%)  
C+ (78%-80%)  
C (73%-77%)  
C- (70%-72%)  
D+ (68%-70%)  
D (63%-67%)  
D- (60%-62%)  
F (below 60%)

## 8. ATTENDANCE, INTEGRITY, AND ACCESS

University education is a great privilege, offered to all with the ability and the willingness to learn, without obstacles based on race, sex, or other aspects of personal identity. Students would be foolish to squander their opportunity by unexcused absence from class or by academic dishonesty. Please consult the following LSU policies:

Attendance: PS-22, Student Absence from Class

[https://www.lsu.edu/policies/ps/ps\\_22.pdf](https://www.lsu.edu/policies/ps/ps_22.pdf)

Integrity: Code of Student Conduct, section 10.1

<https://www.lsu.edu/saa/students/codeofconduct.php>

Access: Mission, Vision, and Diversity Statement

[https://www.lsu.edu/diversity/about\\_us/mission\\_vision.php](https://www.lsu.edu/diversity/about_us/mission_vision.php)

Students who are struggling in the course should first contact the instructors. Should students want additional assistance, they are encouraged to contact the Center for Academic Success.

## 9. NETIQUETTE

Communication in the online classroom comes across differently than the communication we are accustomed to through academic writing and face-to-face classroom discussion. Please review *The Core Rules of Netiquette* by Virginia Shea (1994) to understand the human aspect of online communication and to find useful guidelines.

### Zoom class rules and best practices

It is best to be logged into MyLSU before you start your Zoom class. Make sure that you have the latest version of Zoom by periodically checking for updates.

When you enter our Zoom class you will first be in a waiting room. We will admit everyone at the start of class. Please enter a few minutes early.

Make sure you are listed in participants under your own name – if you are using someone else’s computer or your phone, you can “rename” yourself by pressing “more” next to your name in participants and change it. If you prefer to go by a different name or nickname, please let us know ahead of time and “rename” yourself by your preferred name and your last name. Posing as another student or allowing someone to pose as you is in direct violation of LSU Student Code of Conduct.

During Zoom class make sure to press “participants” and “chat” at the bottom of the window in order to open these two windows. “Participants” lets you see the names of your classmates and lets you “raise your hand”. Chat is a great feature to ask a question without interrupting the lecture. One of us will be monitoring the chat and we will be able to address the question during lecture or via chat. Notice that you can either send your question to everyone or to us privately. We would prefer you to use the “everyone” because others may have the same question, but you can use your best judgement. The chat feature is also a way that we can share a document or website during the class.

During seminars it would be best to have your camera on, but if you cannot, please let us know privately. Keep yourself muted until you are about to speak.

Use Gallery view instead of Speaker view during seminars in order to see your classmates. The button is in the upper right-hand corner of the Zoom screen.

Some people have been discussing the impact of the “mirror” effect – it is not normal to see yourself during a regular class and part of zoom fatigue is related to constantly looking at yourself during a Zoom class. Please realize that you can turn off self-view



while still having your video on. This way you can see us and your classmates during seminar but not yourself. You can do this by pressing the three dots on the upper right-hand of the window showing only your face.

During lectures it is best to mute yourself. If there is background noise, we may, as “hosts” mute the class. Use the chat feature to ask questions.

Remember you are expected to conduct yourself during our zoom classes as if you were in a real classroom. Thus, make sure to use zoom features, such as share screen accordingly.

\*\*\*This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class and posted on Moodle.\*\*\*