



Faculté de philosophie et lettres

FLTR

GERM2317 **Civilisation des pays de langue allemande: éléments d'histoire de la civilisation**

[30h] 4 credits

This two-yearly course is taught in 2005-2006, 2007-2008,...

This course is taught in the 1st semester

Language:

Level: 2nd cycle course

Aims

The 18th century was a century of important scientific and philosophical changes. This course aims at familiarizing the students with these changes through the analysis of founding texts from the modern era: for example, the personality and work of the physicist and writer, Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, will be examined..

Main themes

During the 18th century the evolution of the natural is characterized by methodological renewal: Cartesian rationalism is abandoned to the advantage of the empirical rationalism of Bacon; numerous discoveries are made in the fields of physics (electricity), astronomy, chemistry (Lavoisier) etc. Thanks to the Enlightenment the subject gains its autonomy and frees itself from all tutelary authority. Simultaneously, however, this newly acquired autonomy of the subject is shattered by crises which threaten its psychological stability (e.g. hypochondria as the "disease of the intellectuals").

Content and teaching methods

Content: Based on the work and personality of the physicist and writer G.C. Lichtenberg (1742-1799) this course examines the great changes and important discoveries which took place in philosophy, theology and natural sciences in 18th century Germany:

- the secularisation process in the German "Aufklärung";
- Kant's influence;
- Lichtenberg and the natural sciences of his time;
- Lichtenberg and the physiognomy of Lavater;
- "Spinozism" as a promise of reconciliation between sciences and faith;
- Hypochondria making the "modern subject" insecure.

Method: ex cathedra lectures illustrated by numerous examples discussed and analysed with the students.

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Evaluation : Assessment on the basis of a written exam. The student's capacity to writing a text will also be evaluated.

Other credits in programs

GERM21	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques	(4 credits)
GERM21/BD	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
GERM21/DB	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Anglais)	(4 credits)
GERM21/DN	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Néerlandais)	(4 credits)
GERM21/ND	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Néerlandais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
GERM22	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques	(4 credits)
GERM22/BD	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Allemand)	
GERM22/DB	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Anglais)	
GERM22/DN	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Néerlandais)	
GERM22/ND	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Néerlandais et Allemand)	
ROM21	Première licence en langues et littératures romanes	(4 credits)
ROM22	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures romanes	(4 credits)