

Faculty of Arts and Letters



ROM2232 History of French literature of the XVIII century

[30h] 2.5 credits

This two-yearly course is taught in 2007-2008, 2009-2010,...

This course is taught in the 1st semester

Language: French

Level: Second cycle

Aims

To know the important ethical and esthetical lines of the Enlightenment (= Les Lumières)
Notice the breaks and the continuity of this period with regard to the the age of Louis XIV (=Le Grand siècle), as well as the early beginnings of modernity present in major works. In depth analysis of the text of works written by some greater writers, while linking them to their origins and influences (Rousseau, Voltaire, Diderot, the free-thinking writers). Also understanding the influence of these works in their age and beyond. The aim is to carry out these studies, by leaning on the contemporary concepts of social sciences and of literary theory.

Main themes

In-depth study of the thematical, philosophical, generic and stylistic evolution of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's work. Study of what the stakes and position in the Enlightenment Age , and of the disputes his work has always caused. Sketch Voltaire's literary, philosophical and political activities. All the latter's philosophical tales will be dealt with. The same approach will be used for Diderot, with the study of Jacques le Fataliste and of Neveu de Rameau. The novelistic and free-thinkers movement are studied, with special attention to some works illustrating both movements. Also Choderlos de Laclos' work and thoughts will be analysed. The philosophical and esthetical project of Sade and the links to his biography are clarified.

Content and teaching methods

Draw the philosophical and esthetical lines of the Enlightenment Century and point out the breaks and continuities with those of the XVII century. Analysis of the works of some greater writers (Rousseau, Voltaire, Diderot, Choderlos de Laclos), with links to their sources and influence. We will also point out how our age (20 and 21 century) is still influenced in some way. The aim is to carry out these studies with the help of the contemporary concepts of social sciences and of literary theory.

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

Prerequisites : If need be, revision of a course of History of the French literature of the first study years.

Liking the dispute of ideas and reading great works.

Oral exam.

Teaching materials : Ex cathedra course mainly theoretical and historical with analysis of authors, based on the tools of social sciences (philosophy, anthropology, psychoanalysis).

List of mandatory reading.

A bibliography will be provided.

Other credits in programs

ARKE21	Première licence en histoire de l'art et archéologie	(2.5 credits)
ROM21	Première licence en langues et littératures romanes	(2.5 credits)
ROM22	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures romanes	(2.5 credits)