

HIST20181

MAKING OF THE MODERN MIND IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

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Man at the Crossroads by Diego Rivera (1934)

Course Description

In this course, we explore how some of the major ideas and intellectual movements that have shaped modern history came into being. We focus on Europe, Asia and the Americas between c. 1760-1950 to establish how ideas about freedom, society, violence, mankind, race, morality, and politics were transformed into distinctively modern ways of thinking – ways of thinking which we still rely on today.

Each week, we will be encountering epoch-defining texts and reading them directly, trying to understand how they related to the societies and cultures that produced them. Some of these texts will be by thinkers you may be familiar with, like Marx and Darwin. Some are by influential intellectuals you might not have heard of, like Burke, M.K. Gandhi or José Vasconcelos. And others will be by authors whose names might ring a bell, but whom you probably will not have read in depth, like Nietzsche or Freud. We will explore how major ideas come into being, who assembles them, and how they're consumed, adapted or discarded.

In doing so, the course offers an exhilarating journey into key historical debates and transformative historical phenomena in this critical period in British, European and world history, as well as a unique opportunity to transform your own intellectual awareness and development, both as a student and a citizen.

Indicative Syllabus

- What is Intellectual History?
- Enlightened Politics?
- Revolution and its Critics
- Locating Liberalism
- Socialism or the Reinvention of Society
- History and Progress
- Perils of Progress
- Nationalism
- The Problem of the Mind
- Race
- Revolution 2.0: Violence and Anarchism

Assessments

There are three assessed tasks for this course.

- 1 x 100 word forum post (formative).
- 1 x 1500 word essay (40% of the final mark).
- 1 x 2000 word essay (60% of the final mark).

Background Reading

Armitage, David. 'What's The Big Idea? Intellectual History and The Longue Durée', *History Of European Ideas* 4 (2012), 493-507.

Burrow, John. 'Intellectual History in English Academic Life: Reflections on a Revolution', in David Whatmore and Brian Young, *Palgrave Advances in Intellectual History* (Basingstoke, 2006), 8-24.

Bay, Mia, Griffin, Farah J., Jones, Martha S. and Savage Barbara D. *Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women*. (Chapel Hill, 2015) Chartier, Roger. 'Intellectual History or Sociocultural History? The French Trajectories', in D. LaCapra and S. Kaplan (eds).

Modern European Intellectual History: Reappraisals and New Perspectives, (Ithaca, 1982) pp. 13-46 [E]

Collini, Stefan, and others. 'What is intellectual history?', *History Today* 35.10 (October 1985): 46-54. [E]

Collini, Stefan. 'The Identity of Intellectual History', in Richard Whatmore and Brian Young, *A Companion to Intellectual History* (Oxford, 2016), 7-19.

Cowan, Brian. 'Intellectual, Social and Cultural History: Ideas in Context', in David Whatmore and Brian Young, *Palgrave Advances in Intellectual History* (Basingstoke, 2006), 171-188.

Cuttica, Cesare. 'Intellectual History in the Modern University', in Richard Whatmore and Brian Young, *A Companion to Intellectual History* (Oxford, 2016), 36-47. [E]