French

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Enlightenment Origins
Code	FRU44111
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Module Co-ordinator	Dr James Hanrahan (HANRAHAJ@tcd.ie)

Module Content

This module will focus on debates on the nature of origins in the Enlightenment with a focus on three thinkers whose ideas had a profound influence on Western society.

The search for origins is a predominant feature of Enlightenment thought across a range of diverse areas. Many thinkers of the time sought to locate the origins of civil society in a hypothetical state of nature (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Diderot, Kant, Condorcet); others hypothesised about the origins of our planet and human life in direct contradiction with the Biblical account of Genesis (Du Maillet, Buffon, Diderot). These accounts of origins were therefore addressing the origins of humanity and also the origin of what it meant to be human.

Beyond those whose main centre of interest was the interrogation of origins, there are other Enlightenment figures who rejected these intellectual initiatives but were forced to address them because of their prevalence (Voltaire).

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

1. Analyse critically and independently a variety of primary texts and documents in French from the 18th century
2. Outline how society has assimilated or rejected the intellectual heritage of the 18th century in subsequent centuries on the basis of an analysis of secondary texts in English and French
3. Discuss in broad terms the historical and intellectual development of France thought during the 18th century, especially in relation to speculative thought
4. Organise and present ideas in English and French, in writing and orally, in order to produce structured and reasoned critical argument

5. Apply the specific methodologies of literary and historical analysis to the study of origins in 18th-century France

Assessment

This module will be assessed by essay weighted at 100%.