History 427 (a): Ideas and Society in Modern Europe
John McCole
Spring Term 2022
Tuesdays/Thursdays 10-11:20

YOU CAN TAKE THIS COURSE if you’ve taken my other version of HIST 427, Modern German Intellectual History. It’s a “topics” course with completely different content.

I’LL BE TEACHING IN PERSON spring term.

This is a course about some major ideas in modern European history in their social and historical context. That means that we’ll read the arguments about these issues carefully, but we’ll also place them in the historical worlds that they arose in and that the authors were addressing.

Unit 1: The Market Economy and Commercial Society: Adam Smith (Oct. 2, 7, 9)

Unit 2: Regenerating the Community and the Self: Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Unit 3: A Theory of Liberty and of the Subjection of Women: John Stuart Mill

Unit 4: Socialism, “Utopian” and "Scientific": Karl Marx

Unit 5: A Radical Critique of Christianity and Morality: Nietzsche

Unit 6: Rationalization, Its Causes and Consequences: Max Weber

Unit 7: Feminism: Simone de Beauvoir

Unit 8: Power and Resistance: Michel Foucault

Unit 9: Why Multiculturalism? Charles Taylor, Jürgen Habermas, Anthony Appiah