HONS 391: Charleston in the Age of Enlightenment

Spring Semester 2006
Tuesdays, 3:10 to 6:00 p.m.
Maybank Hall 320

Instructor: Nicholas Butler, Ph.D.
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Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (appointments recommended)
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Course Summary
This course will survey the European, African, and Caribbean influences on various aspects of life in urban Charleston during its most cosmopolitan era, which coincided with the flowering of the “Enlightenment” in Europe. Topics of discussion will include architecture, civic planning, culture (music/theatre/dance/material), economy and commerce, education, politics and law, race and ethnicity, religion, science and medicine, and society (class/family/charity/leisure). Through research and discussion, students will gain not only a better understanding of local history, but also of Charleston’s place in the broader “Age of Enlightenment.”

Required Readings
George Rogers, Jr., Charleston in the Age of the Pinckneys (1969 and subsequent editions).
Other materials as assigned (at least one week in advance)

Individual Projects
During the semester each student will make three individual presentations to the class on a topic selected from those listed below. Topics will be chosen/assigned at least two weeks before they are to be presented. Students will research their topic (the attached list of sources will help get you started) and deliver a 10-15 minute oral presentation that addresses the facts, context, and significance of the material. Handouts including an outline and “works cited” list should be prepared. Alternatively, students may prepare a PowerPoint slideshow (including a “works cited” slide) that they will narrate and then distribute electronically.

My job at the Charleston County Public Library is to help people like you locate reference materials and images. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss your research topic.

Grading
Class participation: 20%
Class presentations (3): 40%
Mid-term exam: 20%
Final exam: 20%
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Course Calendar

January 10: Welcome and introductions; course overview; tour of Special Collections Department, Addlestone Library.

January 17: What is the Enlightenment?; Discussion of Rogers, Charleston in the Age of the Pinckneys, pages xi-88.

January 24: Discussion of Rogers, Charleston in the Age of the Pinckneys, pages 89-166.

January 31: The founding of Charles Town; Government and the Rule of Law; Discussion of David Ramsay, History of South-Carolina, volume 1, pages 14-31; 53-69 (on E-Reserve)

February 7: Economics / Commerce / Agriculture; Discussion of David Ramsay, History of South-Carolina, volume 2, pages 112-36 (on E-Reserve)

February 14: Religion

February 21: Civic Planning / Civil Defense / Architecture; reading selections from Jonathan Poston, Buildings of Charleston, and Samuel G. Stoney, This is Charleston.

February 28: Mid-term exam / Sports and Leisure

March 7: SPRING BREAK (no class)

March 14: Education and Literature

March 21: Medicine / Science / Botany / Climate

March 28: Race/ Ethnicity / Slavery

April 4: The Revolution

April 11: Social Life (Family / Domesticity / Fraternity / Class / Charity)

April 18: Music / Theatre / Dancing

April 25: Reading Day (no class)

Final exam: Friday, 28 April, at 4:00 p.m.
Topics for class discussion, January 17:
- House of Hanover (Kings George I, II, III)
- Fort Johnson
- Oyster Point
- Henry Laurens
- State House
- George Anson
- Glebe lands of St. Philip’s Parish
- Pinckney Mansion on East Bay Street
- Josiah Quincy
- Eliza Lucas Pinckney
- Charles Pinckney
- Christopher Gadsden
- What is the ENLIGHTENMENT?

Topics for class discussion, January 24:
- Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (“The SPG”)
- George Whitefield
- Inns of Court
- Dissenters
- Federalism
- Republicanism
- Chamber of Commerce
- Edmond Genêt
- Placemen
- Society of the Cincinnati
- Pinckney Draft (of the U. S. Constitution)
- St. Domingo (St. Domingue)
- XYZ Affair
- Castle Pinckney
- Liberty Tree
- Denmark Vesey
- Stono Rebellion (or uprising)
- Robert Mills

Presentation Topics for January 31:
- “Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina,” 1669
- English “Common Law”
- The “Gaol” and the “Work House”
- Lieutenant Governor William Bull II
- Pirates and Piracy in early Charles Town
- Yamasee War
Presentation Topics for February 7:
- Ships in Charleston (types, sizes, other ports of call, packet system)
- Commercial activity as represented in the *South Carolina Gazette* (1732-1776)
- Trade disputes: Stamp Act, Townshend duties, John Wilkes, etc.
- Indigo (its introduction to S.C., how it was produced, British bounty, export values)
- Rice (its introduction to S.C., how it was shipped, where sent to, export values)
- Gabriel Manigault (1704-1781)
- Robert Pringle (1772-1776) and his letterbook

Presentation Topics for February 14:
- Catholicism in early Charleston
- Jews in early Charleston
- French Protestants (Huguenot) in early Charleston
- Congregationalists in early Charleston
- Presbyterians in early Charleston
- Baptists in early Charleston
- Quakers in early Charleston

Presentation Topics for February 21:
- William De Brahm and his designs for the defense of Charleston
- William Gibbes House, South Battery
- Miles Brewton House, King Street
- The “Grand Model” of Charleston
- Susan Pringle Frost and the founding of the Preservation Society of Charleston

Presentation Topics for March 14:
- Rev. Robert Smith, first principal of the College of Charleston
- Charleston Library Society
- Charleston Museum
- Founding of the College of Charleston
- Joseph Addison, Richard Steele, and London journalism

Presentation Topics for March 21:
- Dr. Alexander Garden and his correspondence with the Royal Society of London
- Lionel Chalmers and his *Account of the weather and diseases of South Carolina*
- Mark Catesby and his *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and Bahama Islands*
- André Michaux and his botanical work around Charleston
- The medicinal “receipts” of Eliza Lucas Pinckney and Harriott Pinckney Horry
- John Lining and his *Statical Experiments*

Presentation Topics for March 28:
• Brown Fellowship Society
• Foreign Slave Trade
• Slave hire system
• Slave advertisements in the early Charleston newspapers
• Slave Code of 1740

Presentation Topics for April 4:
• Battle of Fort Sullivan (Moultrie), 1776
• British siege of Charleston, 1779
• British siege of Charleston, 1780
• Revolutionary sentiments in Charleston before 1776
• South Carolinians at the Continental Congresses
• British Loyalists in Charleston

Presentation Topics for April 11:
• Freemasonry in 18th-century Charleston
• Fraternal clubs in 18th-century Charleston
• The roles of women in 18th-century Charleston
• Charity and public relief in 18th-century Charleston
• Jews and Judaism in 18th-century Charleston
• Native Americans around Charleston in the 18th century

Presentation Topics for April 18:
• Dancing and dancing masters in 18th-century Charleston
• The St. Cecilia Society
• Theater in Charleston, 1735-1774
• Anglican (Episcopal) church music in 18th-century Charleston
• Catches and glees: gentlemen’s social music in 18th-century Charleston
A sample list of resources that may be useful for your presentations:


South Carolina Historical Society. *South Carolina Historical Magazine.* Published quarterly since January 1900. Indices to volumes 1-99 (1900-1999) are available in four separate volumes.


