



The Oxford Masters (M.St) in the Enlightenment...

...provides a comprehensive introduction to the comparative and interdisciplinary study of the European Enlightenment.

What was the public sphere? Where do modern concepts of gender and sexuality come from? Is language natural or artificial? Who is civilized and who is savage? What is the power of culture and what is the culture of power? How diverse are the national histories of the Enlightenment movement? What was the relation between religion and secular morality?

These are some of the questions that the team-taught seminar programme addresses through the study of key figures in the history of ideas, including Leibniz, Bayle, Montesquieu, Du Châtelet, Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, Hume, Smith, Karamzin, Kant, Goethe, Beccaria and Wollstonecraft, and through the close study of literary genres, including works of travel writing, fiction, autobiography, scientific discourse, opera libretti and theatre.

Oxford is home to libraries with remarkable eighteenth-century holdings, and also to the Voltaire Foundation, an important centre for textual research and publication, and its newly established Centre for the Enlightenment.

The programme's unique strength is the range of dedicated experts from all the major languages and traditions, French, German, Italian, Russian and English.

God is a comedian playing to an audience that is too afraid to laugh.

VOLTAIRE (1694 - 1778)