GRBK 2500: Great Books of the 17th and 18th Centuries, Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment. (WI, FC:HU)
CRN 34669 Honors Section 298: 35392

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Description
Interdisciplinary focus on key works of 17th and 18th century thought, including texts by d’Alembert, Diderot, Bacon, Newton, Cotes, Condorcet, Priestly, Franklin, Buffon, Locke, Wollstonecraft, Voltaire, Descartes, Hume, Leibnitz, Reid, Rousseau, Pope, Addison, Burke, Kant, Swift, Godwin, Blake, Wordsworth, and Coleridge. Exploration of the idea of the human itself, as it emerges in this long period through concepts and practices of science, economics, politics, literature, and culture. Examination of the contradictions in these concepts and practices, all of which hinge on an idea of reason with its own internal logic.

Objectives
1. Students will acquire specific knowledge of these key texts of Western thought, individually and in sequential relation.
2. Students will practice and improve analytical skills in class discussion and written analyses.
3. Students will gain a sense of how these works have contributed to general knowledge, including the idea of the human itself.

Required Texts (these editions only)
The Portable Enlightenment Reader (Penguin)
Voltaire, Candide (Bedford, trans. Daniel Gordon)
Jonathan Isreal, from Radical Enlightenment (introduction, scanned to Blackboard)
Carolyn Merchant, from The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution (introduction, scanned to Blackboard)
poems by William Blake, William Wordsworth, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge (scanned to Blackboard)
Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, Dialectic of Enlightenment (introduction, scanned to Blackboard)