

ENGL S-141. The Enlightenment Invention of the Modern Self (CRN: 31376)

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During the eighteenth century, as traditional ways of interpreting the world came under energetic attack, writers in Britain, France, and Germany brilliantly explored the ways in which the self can be seen as a product of social conditioning, fragmentary and artificial, and yet also as a fundamental core of stable personality. In addition to short selections from poets, biographers, and philosophers, the course will focus on memorable narrative works including Boswell's *London Journal*, Rousseau's *Confessions*, Diderot's *Jacques the Fatalist*, Laclos' *Liaisons Dangereuses*, and Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*. A final section will consider the anti-Enlightenment critique of the romantic poet Blake.