Unit Description for unit catalogue: (maximum 150 words)
This unit introduces the phenomenon of enlightenment in Europe. A broad movement that sought to understand man and society, enlightenment defines the intellectual history of the eighteenth century and leaves a profound mark upon today. Answering the question ‘what is enlightenment?’ The philosopher Kant answered that it was a movement towards ‘man’s release from his self-incurred immaturity’ and urged his readers adopt the motto ‘dare to know’. Enlightenment thinkers attempted to leave behind the traditional sources of authority and knowledge - the church, divine right monarchs and their followers and to forge new, rational ways of understanding and organizing society. So profound has been the legacy of enlightenment that it is today credited or blamed for everything between modern liberal democracy and the totalitarian states of the twentieth Century.

Extended Description: (if applicable)

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
10 x 2 hour seminars

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 2 hour exam (100%)

Essential Reading – maximum of 6 titles

Voltaire, *Letters Concerning the English Nation* (1721)

Further Information (eg. contact tutor/blackboard sites etc.)

Date written: Date revised: 14 April 2010