

His 2560, Paper 1

Pre-assignment question, due 16 October:

Write a typed double-spaced paragraph on what Voltaire satirizes and why in *Candide*. chapter _____.

Paper question (5 pp., 15%), due 30 October:

1. Was Voltaire a product of or a critic of the Age of Enlightenment? Examine Voltaire's evaluation of Enlightenment ideals in *Candide*. Does Voltaire only criticize and satirize the *practices* of his age, or does he also criticize Enlightenment *thought*? Are there any Enlightenment ideals that he defends? Is he accurate? .

2. *Ecrasez l'infâme* (Crush the infamous thing!) cried Voltaire in his letters. But what is "the infamous thing" Using documents on *either* religion *or* 18th-century war, trade, and empires, argue what Voltaire finds most objectionable about his period focusing on three different aspects of the subject. Is he accurate?

For either, use at least two additional 18th-century documents (primarily *Candide*, letters and reviews, pp. 121-31; and Reilly, docs. 22, 24-25, Le Van Baumer, Montague, de Fontenelle) to identify thought and practices (context) of the eighteenth century. Does your argument about Voltaire and his age fit or question the argument put forward in Palmira Brummett, et. al., *Civilization Past & Present*, vol. B, *From 500 to 1815*, 11th ed., ch. 17? The essay should be typed, double-spaced, and use a clear and consistent form of referencing (see citation guide at <http://ux1.eiu.edu/~nekey/citate.htm> on the web).