THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND ITS REVOLUTIONS

- 18th c. marks a great divide in Western history
  - century opened: West was still semi feudal economically and politically= wealth and power were controlled by the aristocratic elite
    - largest and poorest class: farmer
    - small middle class: doctors, lawyers, shopkeepers, artisans, and merchants
  - end of the century: new source of wealth- industrial manufacture
- Industrial Revolution: complimented by a revolution in politics, spurred by a new philosophy
  - all white men were deserving of equal rights and opportunities
- Enlightenment: radically new synthesis of ideas about humanity, reason, nature, and God
  - arisen during classical Greek and Roman times and during the Renaissance
  - thinker’s generally optimistic
  - humanity could be reformed, if no perfected
- prominent influence of thinkers (philosophes): Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Denis Diderot, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin
  - rejecting conventional notions that men and women we here to serve God or the ruling class
  - philosophers insisted that humans were born to serve themselves, to pursue their own happiness and fulfillment
- mathematical and scientific discoveries
  - Isaac Newton: empirical proof to his scientific studies, rejected the supernatural realm
  - John Locke: consideration of human society, behavior are not inborn or predetermined by God (perception and experience)

THE ROCOCO STYLE IN EUROPE

- Portuguese word: barroco (irregularity in shaped pearl) French word: rocaille (artificial shell or rock ornament popular in gardens
- refined, fanciful, playful style
- pastel colors, delicately curving forms, dainty figures, lighthearted mood
- lavish settings for intimate and fashionable intellectual gatherings and entertainments= salons
  - hosted by accomplished, educated women of the upper class
- Saloon De La Princesse, Hotel De Soubise
- Architecture and Its Decoration in Germany and Austria
  - interior designs: based on traditional Baroque plans, animated by Rococo spirit
  - The Residenz at Wurzburg
  - The Marriage of the Emperor Frederick and Beatrice of Burgundy
- Rococo Church Decoration
  - Church of the Vierzehnheiligen
- Rococo Painting and Sculpture in France
  - death of the Sun King in 1715 brought important changes to French court life and art
  - formality and seriousness gave way to increased devotion to pleasure, frivolity and sensuality
  - Watteau
    - originator
    - fluent brushwork and rich colors characteristic of Rubens and the Venetians
- *Pilgrimage to the Island of Cythera*
- *The Signboard of Gersaint*

**Boucher**
- decorated the royal residences of Versailles and Fontainebleau
- 1765: 1st painter to the King
- best known for his mythological scenes, in which gods, goddesses, and putti frolic or relax in natural settings
- *Triumph of Venus*

**Fragonard**
- produced 14 canvases commissioned around 1771 by Madame du Barry, Louis XV’s mistress
- *The Meeting*

**Clodion**
- *The Invention of the Balloon*

**ITALY AND THE CLASSICAL REVIVAL**
- Grand Tour- prolonged visit to the major cultural sites
  - well preserved Roman buildings, monuments and Venice, Florence, Naples, and Rome
- Neoclassicism: mythological or historical style derived from classical Greek and Roman art
  - intended to teach moral lessons
  - arose, in part, in reaction to the perceived frivolity and excess of the Rococo
- Italian Portraits and Views
  - *Carriera*
    - wealthy Europeans often sat for portraits by Italian artists
    - leading portraitist in Venice
    - began her career painting miniature portraits
    - portraits with pastels
    - honorary membership in Rome’s Academy of Saint Luke in 1705
    - elected to the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture
  - *Canaletto*
    - visitors on the Grand Tour desired paintings and prints of city views- collected memories of their travels
    - capriccio: artists mixed actual features, especially ruins, with imaginatively pleasing compositions
    - veduta: naturalistic rendering of well-known tourist attractions (often panoramic views)
    - *Santi Giovanni E Paolo and the Monument to Barolommeo Colleoni*
  - *Piranesi*
    - one of the century’s greatest printmakers
    - 1761 established his own publishing house
    - numerous vedute of ancient Roman ruins
    - new taste for the picturesque: aesthetically pleasing irregularity in shapes, compositions and lighting
    - *The Lion Bas-Relief*
- Neoclassicism in Rome
  - *Mengs*
    - *Parnassus*
  - *Canova*
• **REVIVALS AND EARLY ROMANTICISM IN BRITAIN**
  o Romanticism: describes a style and attitude
  o chiefly concerned with imagination and the emotions
  o reaction against the Enlightenments’ focus of rationality
  o celebrates the individual
  o subjective rather than universal and the objective
  o romances: novellas, stories, and poems
  o existed side by side with Neoclassicism
  o **Classical Revival in Architecture and Landscaping**
    ▪ amateurs took a stance against the immoral extravagance of the Italian Baroque
    ▪ *Chiswick House*
  o **Gothic Revival in Architecture and its Decoration**
    ▪ *Strawberry Hill*
  o **Neoclassicism in Architecture and the Decorative Arts**
    ▪ Adam: *Syon House*
    ▪ Wedgewood
      ▪ interiors were designed in part of house art collections
      ▪ opened a pottery factory called Etruria, after the Etruscan civ. known for its pottery
      ▪ workers trained in specialties, each with their own kilns
      ▪ talented chemist, perfected a fine-grained under glazed colored pottery known as jasperware
      ▪ *The Apoteosis of Homer*
  o **Painting**
    ▪ developing other subjects: moralizing satire and caricature, ancient and modern history, British landscape and people and scenes from English literature
    ▪ interest in social progress, embrace of natural beauty and faith in reason and science
    ▪ **The Satiric Spirit**
      ▪ end of government censorship: 1695
      ▪ flourishing culture of literary satire emerged
      ▪ *The Marriage Contract*
    ▪ **Portraiture**
      ▪ Reynolds attempted to elevate portraiture to the level of history painting by giving it a historical or mythological veneer
      ▪ Grand Manner= baroque classicism
      ▪ *Lady Sarah Bunbury Sacrificing to the Graces*
      ▪ *Portrait of Mrs. Richard Brinsley Sheridan*
    ▪ **The Romance of Science**
      ▪ *An Experiment on a Bird in the Air-Pump*
    ▪ **History Painting**
      ▪ academies long considered history painting to be the highest form of art
      ▪ *Cornelia Pointing to her Children as her Treasures*
      ▪ *The Death of General Wolfe*
    ▪ **Romantic Painting**
      ▪ glorified the irrational side of human nature that the Enlightenment sought to deny
      ▪ Fuseli
- trained in theology, philosophy, and Neoclassical aesthetics
- powerfully expressive style
- dramatic subjects drawn from authors: Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, and Milton
- depicted supernatural and irrational subjects
- **The Nightmare**

### William Blake
- highly original poet, painter, and printmaker
- imagination offered across the higher realm of the spirit
- problems of good and evil
- developed the “Prophetic Books”
  - poetry and imagery dealing with themes of spiritual crisis and redemption
- **Elohim Creating Adam**

### LATER 18TH CENTURY ART IN FRANCE

#### Architecture
- **Pantheon**

#### Painting and Sculpture
- Denis Diderot- considered the founder of modern art criticism
- art’s proper function was to inspire virtue and purify manners
- **Chardin**
  - output essentially limited to still lifes and domestic scenes
  - create a moral genre similar to the tradition of Dutch genre paintings
- **The Governess**
- **Grueze**
  - middle tragedy: taught useful lessons to the public with clear, simple stories of ordinary life
- **The Drunken Cobbler**
- **Vigee-Lebrun**
  - portrait painters moved toward naturalistic poses and more everyday settings
  - many were woman
  - **Portrait of Marie Antoinette with Her Children**
  - **Self-Portrait with Two Pupils**
- **David**
  - dominated French Art during the revolution and reign of Napoleon
  - produced a series of anti-Rococo paintings extolling the antique virtues of stoicism, masculinity and patriotism
  - **Oath of the Horatii**
  - **Death of Marat**
- **Girodet-Trioson**
  - **Portrait of Jean-Baptiste Belley**
- **Houdon**
  - naturalism with Neoclassicism
  - **George Washington**

### 18TH CENTURY ART OF THE AMERICAS

#### New Spain
- conqueror suppressed local beliefs and practices and imposed Roman Catholicism
- Franciscan, Dominican, and Augustinian religious orders
- symbolism was to some extend absorbed into Christian symbolism
- atrial crosses- located in church atriums
- **Atrial Cross**

  - North America
    - remained largely dependent on the styles of Europe
  - Architecture
    - gentlemen-architects (amateurs)
    - Thomas Jefferson *Monticello*
  - Painting
    - relied on native talents rather than formal training
    - portraiture dominated
    - Copely
      - *Watson and the Shark*