Casanova: The Life of a Libertine,
Prof. James Kohn

Wednesday, April 25

Today: Casanova escapes prison, and goes to Paris

1. Casanova’s escape

2. Elegance of French rococo period

3. Amorous pursuits

4. The court of Louis XV and Mme. Pompadour

5. Romance and the proper meal

6. Art in the era of “La Fete Galante”

7. French opera
Timeline for Casanova

Politics: In Venice: declining power until Napoleon conquers city in 1796; in France Louis XV, 1715-1774; in England, George II 1727-1760; in Russia 1729-1796

Art: Late Baroque and Rococo styles


Opera: opera buffa born in Naples; Pietro Metastasio; Christoph Willibald (Ritter von) Gluck

World events: Seven years’ war: 1756 – 1763 (“French and Indian war” in America); English defeat French in India, take over power; Prussia emerges as great power under Frederick the Great.

Styles of clothing: Haute couture begins; perfume industry begins; in Paris the masked ball is popular

Theater: In Venice: Pierre Corneille, Molière and Jean Racine; In England: sentimental comedy, domestic tragedy such as George Lillo’s The London Merchant (1731), and by an overwhelming interest in Italian opera.