Emerging discourses of political economy offered a series of powerful analytical frameworks for understanding and shaping the profound changes underway in early modern Europe and its empires. This seminar will trace a number of different traditions of political economy, primarily from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and explore some of the vibrant debates that took place over the merits, and consequences, of improvements in the “wealth of the nation.” The readings listed below have been chosen to guide our investigation of the ways in which political economy was embedded in discourses about natural history and religion, moral philosophy and political theory, gender and law. While canonical works by theorists like Locke, Mandeville, Hume, Rousseau, Smith and others are well represented here, we have also sought to include lesser-known works on political economy, as well as related literary and legal texts composed by lawyers and merchants, public officials and pundits. By incorporating some of these other kinds of texts, and by focusing squarely upon the languages of political economy, this seminar seeks both to build upon and to expand the inquiries of the Center for the History of British Political Thought.

**Week 1: January 29: Histories of Commerce, Law and Empire**

Samuel Pufendorf, *De Jure Naturae et Gentium* (1672), bk 2, ch 2, bk 4, ch 4
Geoffrey Gilbert, *Historical Account of the Original and Nature as well as the Law of Devises and Revocations* (1739), pp.1-14; *A Treatise on the Court of Exchequer* (1758), ch. XV
Charles Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws* (1750), bks 20-21
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins and Foundations of Inequality among Men* (1755), part 2
Giles Jacob, *Lex Mercatoria* (1718), Introduction

Prelude, chs. 20-21; vol 4 (Cambridge University Press, 2005), ch. 13

Suggested additional reading:
Ronald Meeks, Social Science and the Ignoble Savage (Cambridge University Press, 1976), ch. 1
Paul Cheney, Revolutionary Commerce: Globalization and the French Monarchy (Harvard University Press, 2010), ch. 3

Week 2: February 5: Merchants, Competition, and Corporations
Hugo Grotius, Free Sea (1609)
Gerrard Malynes, Lex Mercatoria (1622), ch. V
Thomas Misselden, Free Trade, or The Meanes to Make Trade Florish (1622), chs. 1-3
Thomas Mun, England’s Treasure by Forraign Trade (1664), chs. I-IV
Henry Robinson, Englands Safety in Trades Encrease (1641), pp. 1-34
Josiah Child, A New Discourse on Trade (1693), ch. 3
Nicholas Barbon, A Discourse of Trade (1690), pp. 34-70
Jean-Francois Melon, A Political Essay upon Commerce (1738), chs. I, IV
David Hume, Of Commerce (1752)


Suggested additional reading:

Week 3: February 12: Gender and Labor/Property
Mary Astell, Reflections upon Marriage (1706)
Daniel Defoe, The Complete English Tradesman (1726), chs. XI, XXI
Daniel Defoe, [Andrew Moreton] Every-Body’s Business is No-Body’s Business; or Private Abuses, Publick Grievances (1725)
Daniel Defoe, Roxana (1724)
Emilie Du Chatelet, Introduction to Fable of the Bees, ch. 1 in Zissner & Bour eds., Emilie Du Chatelet, Selected Philosophical and Scientific Writing (University of Chicago Press, 2009)
Eliza Haywood, Female Spectator (1744-46), bks 1, 23
Female Tatler #9 (July 25-27 1709), #96(?) (February 20-22 1710)
Joseph Addison, Spectator #155 (1711)
Karen Harvey, *The Little Republic: Masculinity and Domestic Authority in 18th-century Britain* (Oxford University Press, 2012), ch. 2

Suggested additional reading:
*The Man of Manners Or Plebian Polish’d* (1737)
Daniel Defoe, *A Treatise Concerning the Use & Abuse of the Marriage Bed* (1727)
Bernard Mandeville, *Modest Defence of the Publick Stews* (1725)

Week 4: February 26: Credit and Trust
Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651), chs. 13-14

George Berkeley, *The Querist* (1725), # 1-65, 217-254
David Hume, *Of Money* (1752)
Galliani, *Della Moneta* (1751), chs. 2, 5

Charles Davenant, *Discourse on the Public Revenue* (1698), bk. II
Jean-Francois Melon, *A Political Essay upon Commerce* (1738), ch. XVIII
Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws* (1750), bk. 22
David Hume, *Of Public Credit* (1752)


Suggested additional reading:
Daniel Defoe, “An Essay on Publick Credit” (1710)
Craig Muldrew, The Economy of Obligation: The Culture of Credit and Social Relations in Early Modern England (Palgrave, 1998), chs. 5-6

Week 5: March 5: Accounting and Calculating History
William Petty, Essays in Political Arithmetic (1711)
Giles Jacob, The Compleat Parish Officer (1723), sect. 2, “Overseers of the Poor”
Montesquieu, Persian Letters (1721), # 112-22
Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations, bk I, chs 8-9

Ted McCormick, William Petty and the Ambitions of Political Arithmetic (Oxford University Press, 2009), ch. 5
Mary Poovey, A History of the Modern Fact (University of Chicago Press, 1998), ch. 2

Suggested additional reading:
David Dalrymple Time Bargains Tried by the Rules of Equity and Principles of the Civil Law (1720)
Mandeville, Essay on Charity Schools (1723)
Ian Hacking, The Emergence of Probability (Cambridge University Press, 2006), ch. 12

Week 6: March 19: Nature
Samuel Hartlib, An Essay for Advancement of Husbandry-Learning (1655)
Cressy Dymock, A Discoverie for Division or Setting out of Land (1653), pp. 1-22
Carl Linnaeus, The Oeconomia of Nature (1749)
Du Pont de Nemours, On the Origin and Progress of a New Science (1768), selections
Anne-Robert-Jacques Turgot, Reflections on the Formation and the Distribution of Wealth (1766), selections
Francois Quesnay, The Oeconomical Table (1766), Introduction

Paul Slack, The Invention of Improvement: Information and Material Progress in Seventeenth-Century England (Oxford University Press, 2015), ch. 4
Lisbet Rausing, Linnaeus: Nature and Nation (Harvard University Press, 1999), ch. 5
Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Enlightenment’s Frontier: The Scottish Highlands and the Origins of Environmentalism (Yale University Press, 2013), ch. 2

Suggested additional reading:
Andre Wakefield, *The Disordered Police State: German Cameralism as Science and Practice* (University of Chicago Press, 2009), ch. 3-4
Alix Cooper, *Inventing the Indigenous: Local Knowledge and Natural History in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), ch. 3

Week 7: March 26: The Self
Bernard Mandeville, *The Fable of the Bees* (1714)
Francis Hutcheson, *An Inquiry into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty and Virtue* (1729), Treatise I, sect. I. and Treatise II
Joseph Butler, *Five Sermons* (1729), Sermon 1
David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* (1751), sect. I-III
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (1761), part I

John Robertson, *The Case for Enlightenment: Scotland and Naples 1680-1760* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), chs. 6-7

Suggested additional reading:

Week 8: April 2: Wealth and Virtue
Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society* (1767), part VI
Voltaire, *The Man of the World* (1738)
Fenelon, *Telemachus* (1699), bk. XVII
Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (1721), #11-14
Jean-Francois Melon, *A Political Essay upon Commerce* (1738), ch. IX
David Hume, *Of Refinement of the Arts* (1752)


Suggested additional reading:
Anoush Terjanian, *Commerce and its Discontents in Eighteenth-Century French Political Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), ch. 1

Week 9: April 16: Empire and Slavery
Francis Hargrave, *An Argument in the Case of James Somersett a Negro* (1772)
Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws* (1750), bks 15-17
Selections from *Encyclopedie*: “slavery” “slave trade” “Africa” “Congo”
Willem Bosman, *A New and Accurate Description of the Coast of Guinea* (1705), letter xviii
Jean-Francois Melon, *A Political Essay upon Commerce* (1738), chs. IV-V
Denis Diderot, *Philosophical and Political History of European Trade and Settlements in the Two Indies, Political Writings* (1783), pp. 169-214

Anoush Terjanian, *Commerce and its Discontents in Eighteenth-Century French Political Thought* (Cambridge, 2012), ch. 2

Suggested additional reading:
Andrew Fletcher, *Two Discourses Concerning the Affairs of Scotland* (1698), Second Discourse
*Laws Concerning Masters and Servants, by a Gentleman of the Inner Temple* (1767)
Catherine Molineux, *Faces of Perfect Ebony: Encountering Atlantic Slavery in Imperial Britain* (Harvard University Press, 2012), ch. 1

Week 10: April 23: Utopian Visions
William Robertson, *View of the Progress of Society in Europe*, selections
Abbe Raynal, *Philosophical History* trans Justamont (1777; 3rd edn), vol 5 pp. 492-511
Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch”