

HIS 6934 - Graduate Seminar: Politics, Economics, and Governmentality
(Fields: European History and Gender History)

A growing number of scholars across multiple fields, including British historians Patrick Joyce and James Vernon, are using the concept of governmentality to better analyze the workings of the state, politics, and society in the modern era. This seminar will train students in this methodology, with an emphasis on how it can be combined with approaches associated with gender history. The class will also introduce students to major approaches to British political, economic, and cultural history from the eighteenth century to the present. The research paper produced for the class can be on British history, or it can be based on the primary and secondary sources that the student expects to work with for their dissertation, interpreting those sources in relation to the theoretical frameworks explored in the class. A significant amount of time will be spent workshopping student papers, and identifying the methodological approaches that might best enhance the analysis of the sources. In addition to articles and chapter selections, the following books will be required: Patrick Joyce, *The State of Freedom: A Social History of the British State since 1800* (Cambridge University Press, 2013); Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-79* (Picador, 2010); Jan De Vries, *The Industrious Revolution: Consumer Behavior and the Household Economy, 1650 to the Present* (Cambridge University Press, 2008); Chris Otter, *The Victorian Eye: A Political History of Light and Vision in Britain, 1800-1910* (University of Chicago Press, 2008); Katie Hindmarch-Watson, *Serving a Wired World: London's Telecommunications Workers and the Making of an Information Capital* (University of California Press, 2020); Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, abridged by Laurence Dickey (Hackett Publishing Co., 1993).