Introduction

This course is part of the Department’s series of Training Seminars. The main aim of the specific sessions of this course is to provide an overview of the key approaches and issues that have dominated the fields of intellectual history and the history of political thought in particular, that are pertinent to the study of other fields of history and, above all, that have been highlighted by EUI-researchers as being important and relevant to their own research projects. All sessions live on the borderline of the theory and practice of research. The emphasis is, if not the quest for method, a search for usable approaches and heuristic devices for research in intellectual history. Hence sessions seek to combine examples from research practice with reflections and ruminations on approach.

Programme:

10 January: Agenda Setting Session
17 January: Historical Contextualism and the Cambridge School
24 January: The History of Concepts and the History of Metaphors
31 January: Gadamer, Taylor and the Hermeneutic Tradition
7 February: Authorship, Intentionality and Biography
14 February: Lost in Translation-- The Scottish Enlightenment in Germany
21 February: Looking for Change
28 February: Political Rhetoric and Political Action
7 March: New sources -- Intellectual history and the material and visual turn(s)

Readings

1. General introductions:


2. Seminar Readings:

**Monday 17 January: Historical Contextualism and the Cambridge School**

Seminar Text:

Suggestions for further reading

**Monday 24 January: The History of Concepts and the History of Metaphors**

Seminar Texts:
Suggestions for further Reading
- Hans Erich Bödeker (ed.), Begriffsgeschichte, Diskursgeschichte, Metapherngeschichte, Göttingen, 2002
- Kari Palonen, Die Entzauberung der Begriffe, Münster: Lit Verlag, 2004
- Terence Ball, James Farr and Russell Hanson (eds.), Political Innovation and Conceptual Change, Cambridge, 1989
- John Zammito, ‘Review: Koselleck's Philosophy of Historical Time(s) and the Practice of History’, History and Theory, Vol. 43, No. 1 (Feb., 2004), pp. 124-135

Monday 31 January: Hans Georg Gadamer, Charles Taylor and the Hermeneutic Tradition

Seminar texts:

Suggestions for further reading
- Josef Bleicher, Contemporary Hermeneutics: Hermeneutics as Method, Philosophy and Critique (London, 1980)
- Olivier Mongin, Paul Ricoeur, Paris, 1998
- Paul Ricoeur, Interpretation Theory: Discourse and the Surplus of Meaning, Fort Worth, 1976

7 February: Authorship, Intentionality and Biography  
**Seminar texts**  

**Suggestions for further reading**  

14 February: Lost in Translation-- The Scottish Enlightenment in Germany  
**Seminar Texts**  
Suggestions for further Reading

21 February: Looking for Change
Seminar Texts:

Suggestions for further reading
- Terence Ball, James Farr, Russell L. Hanson (eds.), *Political innovation and conceptual change*, Cambridge, 1989

28 February: Political Rhetoric and Political Action
Seminar Texts

Suggestions for further reading:
- Nancy S. Struver, *The history of rhetoric and the rhetoric of history*, Ashgate, 2009

7 March: New sources -- Intellectual history and the material and visual turn(s)
Suggestions for further Reading

- Ivan Gaskell, ‘Images’ in Vermeer’s Wager: Speculations on Art History, Theory and Art Museums, Chapter 2, pp. 43-74, pp. 238-244
- Quentin Skinner, On Intellectual History and the History of Books, contributions, vol 1, no 1, pp. 29 - 36

- Woodruff D. Smith, Consumption and the Making of Respectability, 1600–1800 (London, 2002);
- Amanda Vickery and John Styles, eds., Gender, Taste, and Material Culture in Britain and North America, 1700–1830 (New Haven, CT, 2006)