

# The Scottish Enlightenment

Dr David Allan

View Online



448 items

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## I. INTRODUCTION (20 items)

The works listed here constitute some of the most accessible, relevant or widest-ranging work on eighteenth-century Scottish culture – sometimes approached from a British or European perspective, sometimes from one which is insularly Scottish. It is likely that they will all have to be consulted quite regularly, and that you will become familiar with most of them.

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## Recommended reading (4 items)

These texts are perhaps the very best general studies or collections currently in print or available second-hand and so might be regarded as the items most likely to be worth buying yourself

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**A Hotbed of Genius: the Scottish Enlightenment 1730-1790** - David Daiches, Jean Jones, Peter Jones (eds.), 1986

[Book](#) | Suggested for student purchase

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**The Scottish Enlightenment: an anthology** - Broadie, Alexander, 1997

[Book](#) | Suggested for student purchase

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**The Scottish Enlightenment: the historical age of the historical nation** - Broadie, Alexander, 2001

[Book](#) | Suggested for student purchase

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**The social theory of the Scottish Enlightenment** - Berry, Christopher J., 1997

[Book](#) | Suggested for student purchase | cap. 1.

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**The Cambridge companion to the Scottish Enlightenment** - Alexander Broadie, 2003

[Book](#) | Available in the Library and as an e-book.

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**The Scottish Enlightenment** - Hugh Trevor-Roper, 1967

[Article](#)

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**Lord Dacre and the Politics of the Scottish Enlightenment** - Colin Kidd, 2005

[Article](#)

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**The Scottish Enlightenment: a social history** - Chitnis, Anand C., 1976

[Book](#)

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**The Scottish Enlightenment** - Davie, George E., 1981

[Book](#)

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**The Scottish Enlightenment** - Nicholas Phillipson[Chapter](#)

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**Scotland: a new history** - Lynch, Michael, 1992[Book](#) | cap. 20.

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**Virtue, learning and the Scottish Enlightenment: ideas of scholarship in early modern history** - Allan, David, 1993[Book](#) | cap. 1.

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**Scotland in the eighteenth century: union and enlightenment** - Allan, David, 2002[Book](#) | esp. cap 4.

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**Making British culture: English readers and the Scottish Enlightenment, 1740-1830** - David Allan, 2008[Book](#) | esp. cap. 1. [Available in the library and as an e-book.]

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**The pleasures of the imagination: English culture in the eighteenth century** - John Brewer, 1997[Book](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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**Eighteenth century Scotland: new perspectives** - T. M. Devine, John R. Young (eds.), 1999[Book](#)

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**The Scottish Enlightenment: essays in reinterpretation** - Wood, Paul, 2000[Book](#)

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**Men of Genius and Learning: Re-writing the Cultural History of Eighteenth-Century Scotland** - David Allan, 1998[Article](#)

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**Scotland** - J. R. R. Christie[Chapter](#)

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**Capital of the mind: how Edinburgh changed the world** - Buchan, James, 2003[Book](#)

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**SEMESTER 1**

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## II. CONTEXT (41 items)

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### Week 1. Seventeenth-century inheritance: humanism, science and natural law (24 items)

This topic focuses on the culture and intellectual character of the later seventeenth century. Most commentators during the Scottish Enlightenment roundly dismissed their native predecessors. Posterity has usually followed suit. However, recent research has emphasised significant developments in literature, science and legal studies which may have proved surprisingly influential in shaping the eighteenth-century Enlightenment. We

will assess the merits of both standpoints.

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## Primary sources (4 items)

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**The history of the sufferings of the Church of Scotland: from the Restauration [sic] to the Revolution: collected from the publick records, original papers, and manuscripts of that time, and other well attested Narratives. By Mr. Robert Wodrow, Minister of the Gospel at Eastwood. Nec studio nec odio** - Robert Wodrow, 1721

[Book](#) | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: TypBE.D21WW

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**A hind let loose: Or, An historical representation of the testimonies of the Church of Scotland, for the interest of Christ. [...]** - Alexander Shields, 1770

[Book](#) | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: Hay BX9071

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**Moral gallantry: a discourse wherein the author endeavours to prove that point of honour (abstracting from all other ties) obliges men to be vertuous, and that there is nothing so mean (or unworthy of a gentleman) as vice [...]** - George Mackenzie, 1685

[Book](#) | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: TypBL.C85SM

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**The institutions of the law of Scotland** - James Dalrymple Stair, 1981

[Book](#) | Online resource links to 1681 edition.

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**The Origins and nature of the Scottish Enlightenment** - R. H. Campbell, Andrew S. Skinner (eds.), 1982

[Book](#)

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**Humanism in Sixteenth and Seventeenth-Century Scottish Literature** - John MacQueen

[Chapter](#)

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**Prudence and Patronage: the Politics of Culture in Seventeenth-Century Scotland** - David Allan, 1994

[Article](#)

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**Reconciliation and Retirement in the Restoration Scottish Church: The Neo-Stoicism of Robert Leighton** - David Allan, 1999

[Article](#)

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**'An Ancient Sage Philosopher': Alexander Ross and the Defence of Philosophy** - David Allan, 2001

[Article](#)

---

**"In the Bosome of a Shaddowie Grove": Sir George Mackenzie and the Consolations of Retirement** - David Allan, 1999

[Article](#)

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**Philosophy and politics in later Stuart Scotland: neo-Stoicism, culture and ideology in an age of crisis, 1540-1690** - Allan, David, 2000

[Book](#)

---

**Restoration Scotland, 1660-1690: royalist politics, religion and ideas** - Clare Jackson, 2003

[Book](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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**Some aspects of later seventeenth century Scotland** - Meikle, Henry W., 1947

[Book](#)

---

**York in Edinburgh: James VII and the Patronage of Learning in Scotland, 1679-1688** - Hugh Ouston

[Chapter](#)

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**Stair's Scotland: the Intellectual Inheritance** - Donaldson Gordon, 1981

[Article](#)

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**Systems of Property: Grotius and Stair** - D. L. Carey Miller

[Chapter](#)

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**Law and enlightenment in Britain** - Tom Campbell, 1990

[Book](#)

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**The Origins and Development of the Scottish Scientific Community, 1680-1760** - John R. R. Christie, 1974

[Article](#)

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**Sir Robert Sibbald, Kt, The Royal Society of Scotland and the origins of the Scottish enlightenment** - Roger L. Emerson, 1988

[Article](#)

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**Natural Philosophy and the Problem of the Scottish Enlightenment** - Roger Emerson, 1986

[Article](#)

---

**Scottish Cultural Change, 1660-1710 and the Union** - Roger Emerson

[Chapter](#)

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**The tradition of Scottish philosophy: a new perspective on the Enlightenment** - Alexander Broadie, 1990

[Book](#)

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**The Occult laboratory: magic, science, and second sight in late seventh-century Scotland** - Michael Cyril William Hunter, 2001

[Book](#)

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**Natural rights on the threshold of the Scottish enlightenment: the writings of Gershom Carmichael** - James Moore, Michael Silverthorne (eds.), 2002

[Book](#)

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## Week 2. Scottish conditions: a Revolution in a poor country (17 items)

Early eighteenth-century Scots were the beneficiaries of the Protestant, Williamite revolutions of 1688-90 across Britain. Many, however, also believed they lived in a backward country in urgent need of economic modernization. This gave rise to an obsessive concern for "Improvement" which underpinned the Enlightenment. We will

examine the consequences of the Revolution and try to assess Scotland's real material position in its immediate aftermath.

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## Primary sources (3 items)

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**Claim of Right, Act Abolishing Prelacy, Abolition of Committee of Articles and Acts Establishing Presbyterian Government and Transferring Patronage**

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**Select transactions of the Honourable the Society of Improvers in the Knowledge of Agriculture in Scotland [...]** - Robert Maxwell, 1743

**Book** | Read, 'A List of the Members'. [This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: TypBE.D43SM]

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**Selections from the Monymusk Papers (1713-1755)** - Henry Hamilton, 1945

**Book**

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**Scotland in the Age of Improvement: essays in Scottish history in the eighteenth century** - Nicholas Phillipson, Rosalind Mitchison (eds.), 1996

**Book**

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**Scottish population history from the 17th century to the 1930s** - M. W. Flinn, 1977

**Book**

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**Agriculture and society in seventeenth-century Scotland** - I. D. Whyte, 1979

**Book**

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**Scottish Agriculture before the Improvers—an Exploration** - T C Smout, Alexander Fenton, 1965

**Article**

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**Before the Improvers** - Ian Whyte, 1995

**Article**

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**The making of the Scottish countryside** - M. L. Parry, Terry Slater (eds.), 1980

**Book**

---

**The transformation of rural Scotland: social change and the agrarian economy, 1660-1815** - T. M. Devine, 1994

**Book**

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**Scottish trade on the eve of Union, 1660-1707** - Smout, T. C., 1963

**Book**

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**Kindred and Adjoining Kingdoms** - K. Wrightson

**Chapter**

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**The Scottish Nobility and the Revolution of 1688-89** - Bruce Lenman

**Chapter**

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**The Reluctant Revolutionaries?** - I. B. Cowan

**Chapter**

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**Church and State Transformed?** - I. B. Cowan

**Chapter**

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**King William and the Scottish politicians** - P. W. J. Riley, 1979

**Book**

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**British History 1660-1832: national identity and local culture** - Alexander Murdoch, 1998

**Book** | Esp. early caps.

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### III. POLITICS AND RELIGION IN SCOTLAND (76 items)

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#### Week 3. The Union debates and after: civic humanism and Improvement (20 items)

The parliamentary act of Union with England in 1707 has always been seen as singularly important in making possible the subsequent Enlightenment in Scotland. We will examine the extraordinary national debate about Scotland's political future, in which great significance attached to comparisons with the classical republics of antiquity and to the need to improve the country's position in the world.

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#### Primary sources (4 items)

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**The Treaty of Union of the Two Kingdoms of Scotland and England**

See, e.g.: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/aosp/1707/7>

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**Political works** - Andrew Fletcher, John Robertson, 1997

**Book** | Alternatively, use Daiches ed.(see below)

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**Selected political writings and speeches [of] Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun** - Fletcher, Andrew, Daiches, David, 1979

**Book** | Alternative to - Political Works (ed.) John Robertson

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**The history of the union between England and Scotland** - Daniel Defoe, George Chalmers, 1786

**Book** | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: r DA807.D3

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**Scotland: a new history** - Lynch, Michael, 1992

**Book** | Caps. 18, 19, and 22

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**The Machiavellian moment: Florentine political thought and the Atlantic republican tradition** - J. G. A Pocock, 1975

**Book** | Available in the Library and as an e-book.

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**Republicanism, liberty, and commercial society, 1649-1776** - David Wootton, 1994

[Book](#)

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**The Scottish Enlightenment at the Limits of the Civic Tradition** - John Robertson

[Chapter](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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**Divergence and Union** - Mark Goldie

[Chapter](#)

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**Scottish Unionism and the Beginnings of Defoe Criticism** - Jeffrey Hopes, 1997

[Article](#)

---

**Andrew Fletcher and the Treaty of Union** - P.H. Scott, 1994

[Book](#)

---

**Andrew Fletcher's Vision of Union** - John Robertson

[Chapter](#)

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**A union for empire: political thought and the British Union of 1707** - John Robertson, 1995

[Book](#) | John Robertson, "An Elusive Sovereignty", and K. Pennovitch, "From 'Revolution Principles' to Union"

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**'Bought and sold for English gold?': explaining the union of 1707** - Christopher A. Whatley, 1994

[Book](#)

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**Economic Causes and Consequences of the Union of 1707: A Survey** - Christopher A. Whatley, 1989

[Article](#)

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**The Union of 1707** - Chris Munro

[Chapter](#) | C

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**Scotland's relations with England: a survey to 1707** - Ferguson, William, 1994

[Book](#)

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**Public Opinion, Popular Politics and the Union of 1707** - Karin Bowie, 2003

[Article](#)

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**The Scots and the Union** - Christopher A. Whatley, Derek J. Patrick, 2006

[Book](#) | Available in the Library and as an e-book.

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**The Union: England, Scotland and the Treaty of 1707** - Michael Fry, 2006

[Book](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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## Week 4. Kirk and university: toleration and the triumph of Moderatism (31 items)

Tradition asserts that the eighteenth-century Enlightenment across Europe was a comprehensive attack on organized religion and orthodox belief. Yet there are grounds for thinking that the Scottish experience was very different. The Kirk, the clergy and the universities played a crucial role both in promoting intellectual freedom and in producing

the great literary and philosophical works of the age. This topic explores the peculiar flavour that this gave both to Scottish religion and to the Enlightenment in Scotland.

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## Primary sources (5 items)

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**Ecclesiastical characteristics [...]** - John Witherspoon, William Bradford, Thomas Bradford, 1767

**Book** | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: s BX9178.W5F6

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**Sermons** - Hugh Blair, Finlayson, James, 1820

**Book** | Multiple e-book editions of all volumes also available.

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**An historical disquisition concerning the knowledge which the ancients had of India: and the progress of trade with that country prior to the discovery of the passage to it by the Cape of Good Hope : with an appendix** - William Robertson, 1791

**Book** | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: s PA3016.I6R7

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**The autobiography of Dr. Alexander Carlyle of Inveresk 1722-1805** - Burton, John Hill, 1990

**Book**

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**Heads of a course of lectures on civil history** - William Wight, 1772

**Book** | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: TypBG.D70FC

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**The theology and theologians of Scotland: chiefly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries** - Walker, James, 1872

**Book**

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**"From Protest to Reaction": the Moderate Regime in the Church of Scotland, 1752-1805** - I.D.L. Clark

**Chapter** |

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**Church and university in the Scottish Enlightenment: the moderate literati of Edinburgh** - Richard B. Sher, 1985

**Book**

---

**Church and theology in enlightenment Scotland: the Popular Party, 1740-1800** - John R. McIntosh, 1998

**Book**

---

**Enlightened evangelicalism: the life and thought of John Erskine** - Jonathan M. Yeager, 2011

**Book** | Available in the Library and as an e-book.

---

**Scottish Presbyterians and the Act of Union, 1707** - Jeffrey Stephen, 2007

**Book** | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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**Protestantism, Presbyterianism and National Identity in Eighteenth-Century Scottish**



**History** - David Allan

Chapter

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**Anti-Hispanicism and the Construction of Late Eighteenth-century British Patriotism: Watson's History of the Reign of Philip the Second** - David Allan, 2000

Article

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**Patronage and Party in the Church of Scotland, 1750-1800** - Richard Sher, Alexander Murdoch

Chapter

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**"Bustling Artisans": Church Patronage at South Leith in the 1740s and 1750s** - R. A. Houston, 1994

Article

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**On Scotland and the Scotch intellect** - Henry Thomas Buckle, H. J. Hanham, 1970

Book

---

**Enlightenment and religion: rational dissent in eighteenth-century Britain** - Knud Haakonssen, 1996

Book

---

**'Aikenhead the Atheist': The Context and Consequences of Articulate Irreligion in the Late Seventeenth Century**

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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**The blasphemies of Thomas Aikenhead: boundaries of belief on the eve of the enlightenment** - Michael F. Graham, 2008

Book | Available in the library and as an e-book.

---

**Moderate and Evangelical Thinking in the Later Eighteenth Century: Differences and Shared Attitudes** - F. Voges, 1986

Article

---

**'A species of false religion': William Robertson, Catholic relief and the myth of Moderate tolerance** - Alexander Du Toit, 2001

Article

---

**The Scottish Episcopalian Clergy and the Ideology of Jacobitism** - Bruce Lenman

Chapter

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**The Heavenly City of the Eighteenth-Century Moderate Divines** - John Dwyer

Chapter

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**Scottish Universities in the Eighteenth Century, 1690-1800** - Roger Emerson, 1977

Article

---

**Academic patronage in the Scottish enlightenment: Glasgow, Edinburgh and St Andrews universities** - Roger L. Emerson, 2008

Book | Available in the Library and as an e-book.

---

**The Scottish Professoriate and the Polite Academy, 1720-1770** - Peter Jones

## Chapter

**Origins of the Enlightenment in Scotland: the Universities** - R. G. Cant

## Chapter

**Mr Simson's knotty case: divinity, politics and due process in early eighteenth-century Scotland** - Anne Skoczylas, 2001

## Book

**Archibald Campbell's Enquiry into the Original of Moral Virtue, Presbyterian Orthodoxy, and the Scottish Enlightenment** - Anne Skoczylas, 2008

## Article

**Subscription, the Scottish Enlightenment and the Moderate Interpretation of History** - Colin Kidd, 2004

## Article

**The moral culture of the Scottish Enlightenment, 1690-1805** - Thomas Ahnert, 2014

**Book** | Available in the library and as an e-book.

## Week 5. Hanoverian society: patriotism, patronage and corruption (25 items)

Eighteenth-century Scots had a deeply ambivalent identity- sometimes proud Scots, sometimes insecure North Britons. Their political arrangements also entangled them in a web of government patronage, whose damaging effects on liberty greatly concerned many of Scotland's most intelligent Whig thinkers. We will examine what it was, in the light of Union, to be "Scottish", and why "corruption" so preoccupied the Scots.

### Primary sources (4 items)

**Essays, moral and political: By David Hume, Esq** - David Hume, 1748

**Book** | "On Parties in General", "Of the Parties of Great Britain", "Of Civil Liberty" [This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: r B1470.D48 (SR) ]

**Political discourses. By David Hume, Esq** - David Hume, 1754

**Book** | "Of Public Credit" [This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: r B1453.D50 (SR) ]

**View of the political state of Scotland in the last century** - Charles Elphinstone Adam, 1887

## Book

**Letters of Alexander Hume Campbell to Earl of Marchmont**

## Document

**Patronage and politics in Scotland 1707-1832** - Ronald M. Sunter, 1986

## Book

**Who Steered the Gravy Train?** - John Simpson

## Chapter

**The management of Scottish society 1707-1764: power, nobles, lawyers, Edinburgh agents and English influences** - John Stuart Shaw, 1983

Book

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**An enlightened duke: the life of Archibald Campbell (1692-1761), Earl of Ilay, 3rd Duke of Argyll** - Roger L. Emerson, 2013

Book

---

**Scottish county government in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries** - Whetstone, Ann E., 1981

Book

---

**“Nothing but Strugalls and Corruption”** - David Brown

Chapter

---

**The people above: politics and administration in mid-eighteenth century Scotland** - Alexander Murdoch, 1980

Book

---

**East India patronage and the British state: the Scottish elite and politics in the Eighteenth century** - George K. McGilvary, 2008

Book

---

**Academic patronage in the Scottish enlightenment: Glasgow, Edinburgh and St Andrews universities** - Roger L. Emerson, 2008

Book | Available in the Library and as an e-book.

---

**Henry Dundas Revisited** - John Dwyer, Alexander Murdoch, 1988

Article

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**The Importance of Being Edinburgh: Management and Opposition in Edinburgh Politics, 1746-1784** - Alexander Murdoch, 1983

Article

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**The Dundas despotism** - Michael Fry, 1992

Book

---

**The Scottish Enlightenment and the militia issue** - John Robertson, 1985

Book

---

**The Nation as Community** - John Dwyer, 1990

Article

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**Problems of Nationalism, Identity and Improvement in Later Eighteenth-Century Scotland** - T. C. Smout

Chapter |

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**Scotticisms and the Problem of Cultural Identity in Eighteenth-Century Britain** - James Basker, 1991

Article

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**Britons: forging the nation, 1707-1837** - Linda Colley, 1996

[Book](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

---

**Opinion and reform in Hume's political philosophy** - John B. Stewart, 1992

[Book](#)

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**Ulysses Bound? Venice and The Idea of Liberty from Howell to Hume** - David Wootton

[Chapter](#) | David Wootton, 'Ulysses Bound? Venice and The Idea of Liberty from Howell to Hume'

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**The political history of eighteenth-century Scotland** - John Stuart Shaw, 1999

[Book](#)

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**British Identities Before Nationalism: Ethnicity and Nationhood in the Atlantic world, 1600-1800** - Colin Kidd, 1999

[Book](#)

## IV. POLITE SOCIETY (93 items)

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### Week 7. Addison and Ramsay: the renovation of culture and society?

(27 items)

Joseph Addison and *The Spectator* enjoyed immediate and lasting success in Scotland. Avidly read and constantly imitated, his masterly essays on sociability shaped the literary renaissance of Watson and Ramsay as well as defining for eighteenth-century Scots normative standards in propriety, reasonableness and taste. We will explore the problems of reviving Scottish literature in a manner that was strongly influenced by English models, and some of the many resonances that Addison's concern for "politeness" struck in Scottish circles.

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### Primary sources (6 items)

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**The Spectator** - Addison, Joseph

[Journal](#) | Esp. essays 1-20, use any edition.

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**The works of Allan Ramsay** - Allan Ramsay, 1972

[Book](#) | "Journal of the Easy Club"

---

**The gentle shepherd: a Scots pastoral comedy: with the songs.** By Allan Ramsay - Allan Ramsay, 1776

[Book](#) | Numerous print editions also available in Special Collections.

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**The ever green: a collection of Scots poems, wrote by the ingenious before 1600** - Allan Ramsay, 1876

[Book](#) | Read 'Preface'. [Available in the library and as an e-book.]

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**Poems** - Allan Ramsay, 1974

[Book](#) | Read - Preface

---

**A choice collection of comic and serious Scots poems** - Watson, James, 1977

[Book](#)

**The Scottish Merchant Community, 1680-1740** - T. M. Devine

[Chapter](#)

**The Social Background of the Scottish Renaissance** - John Clive

[Chapter](#)

**Culture and Society in the Eighteenth-Century Province: the Case of Edinburgh and the Scottish Enlightenment** - Nicholas Phillipson

[Chapter](#) |

**tics, Politeness and the Anglicisation of Early Eighteenth-Century Scottish Culture** - Nicholas Phillipson

[Chapter](#)

**Politics and Politeness in the Reigns of Anne and the Early Hanoverians** - Nicholas Phillipson

[Chapter](#)

**Shaftesbury and the Culture of Politeness: Moral Discourse and Cultural Politics in Early Eighteenth-Century England** - Lawrence E. Klein, 1994

[Book](#)

**Sociability and power in late-Stuart England** - Susan E. Whyman, 1999

[Book](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

**Allan Ramsay** - Martin, Burns, 1931

[Book](#)

**Allan Ramsay and the Easy Club** - Alexander Law, 1989

[Article](#)

**Were the Easy Club Jacobites?** - Murray Pittock, 1990

[Article](#)

**Watson's Choice, Ramsay's Voice** - A.M. Kinghorn, 1992

[Article](#)

**The Intellectual Background to the Vernacular Revival before Burns** - F.W Freeman, 1981

[Article](#)

**The Englishness of Watson** - Harriet Wood

[Chapter](#)

**The Enlightenment and Social Structure** - Roger Emerson

[Chapter](#)

**Virtuous discourse: sensibility and community in late eighteenth-century Scotland** - John Dwyer, 1987

[Book](#)

**Acts of Union: Scotland and the literary negotiation of the British nation, 1707-1830** - Leith Davis, 1998

Book

---

**Men and the emergence of polite society, Britain, 1660-1800** - Philip Carter, 2001

Book

---

**Elite women and polite society in eighteenth-century Scotland** - Katharine Glover, 2011

Book

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**Polite 'Persons': Character, Biography and the Gentleman** - Philip Carter, 2002

Article

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**Topographies of Politeness** - R. H. Sweet, 2002

Article

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**The Uses of Eighteenth-Century Politeness** - Paul Langford, 2002

Article

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## **Week 8. The enlightened metropolis: Edinburgh** (24 items)

Edinburgh was the definitive "hotbed of genius" and the self-appointed "Athens of the North", home to a galaxy of academic and literary talent, the traditional focus for Scottish professional life and, by the last quarter of the century, a centre of cultural excellence recognised internationally. This topic will try to discover how the social fabric of Edinburgh life, the physical environment of the Old Town as well as the bold departure of the eighteenth-century New Town, both generated and reflected the patriotic and cultural obsessions of the age.

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## **Primary sources** (6 items)

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**"Proposals" for Edinburgh's New Town** - 1752

Article

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**Memorials of his time** - Henry Cockburn, 1971

Book

---

**Traditions of Edinburgh** - Robert Chambers, 1967

Book

---

**Scotland and Scotsmen in the eighteenth century** - John Ramsay, 1888

Book | External link goes to archive.org scan.

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**The history of Edinburgh** - Hugo Arnot, 1779

Book | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: TypBE.D79CA

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**Edinburgh life in the eighteenth century, with an account of the fashions and amusements of society: selected and arranged from "Captain Topmam's letters"** - Topham, Edward, 1900

Book | External link leads to 1899 archive.org scan.

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**Capital of the mind: how Edinburgh changed the world** - James Buchan, 2003

Book

---

**Edinburgh: the golden age** - Mary Cosh, 2003

Book

---

**The social life of Scotland in the eighteenth century** - Henry Grey Graham, 1937

Book

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**Sociability and society in eighteenth century Scotland** - John Dwyer, Richard B. Sher (eds.), 1993

Book

---

**Edinburgh** - David Daiches, 1978

Book

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**The making of classical Edinburgh, 1750-1840** - A. J. Youngson, 1993

Book

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**Order in space and society** - 1982

Book

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**Domes of Enlightenment: Two Scottish University Museums** - Thomas A. Markus

Article

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**Class and Classification in the Buildings of the Late Scottish Enlightenment** - T. A. Markus

Chapter

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**James Craig, 1744-1795: "the ingenious architect of the New Town of Edinburgh"** - Catherine Cruft, Andrew G. Fraser (eds.), 1995

Book

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**George Drummond** - W. Baird, 1911

Article

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**Edinburgh in the age of reason** - Douglas Young, 1967

Book

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**Edinburgh in the age of Sir Walter Scott** - Douglas Young, 1965

Book

---

**Edinburgh: the Golden Age, 1769-1832** - Michael Joyce, 1951

Book

---

**Literacy, Education and the Culture of Print in Enlightenment Edinburgh** - R. A. Houston, 1993

Article

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**Social change in the Age of Enlightenment: Edinburgh, 1660-1760** - R. A. Houston, 1994

Book | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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**Fire and Filth: Edinburgh's Environment, 1660-1760** - R.A. Houston, 1994

**Article**

Dorothy Bell, *The Improvement of Eighteenth-Century Edinburgh* (2000). Not currently available.

**Week 9. Provincial cultures: Glasgow, Aberdeen and beyond?** (26 items)

The role of Glasgow and Aberdeen in eighteenth-century Scotland was both complex and dynamic. On the one hand these towns were home to smaller-scale reflections of Edinburgh developments. On the other, distinctive religious and political traditions, as well as rapidly changing economic structures, made them natural counterweights to Edinburgh, and even focuses for ideas which contrasted starkly with those of the Scottish capital. We will explore the tensions which emerged between Scotland's major towns as the eighteenth century progressed, and consider the case for regarding the Scottish Enlightenment as a truly national phenomenon.

**Primary sources** (3 items)

**The theory of moral sentiments** - Adam Smith, 2000

**Book**

**The minstrel: or, the progress of genius: in two books. With some other poems.** By James Beattie, LL.D - James Beattie, 1797

**Book** | 1807 edition may also be consulted in Special Collections at classmark: s PR3316.B41A17

**A Treatise on Rhetorick** - Robert Watson

**Document**

**Provincial Readers and Book Culture in the Scottish Enlightenment: The Perth Library, 1784-c.1800** - D. Allan, 2002

**Article**

**The Scottish Enlightenment and the Politics of Provincial Culture: The Perth Literary and Antiquarian Society, ca. 1784-1790** - David Allan, 2003

**Article**

**Reading the Scottish Enlightenment: books and their readers in provincial Scotland, 1750-1820** - Mark R. M. Towsey, 2010

**Book**

**'An Infant Son to Truth Engage': Virtue, Responsibility and Self-Improvement in the Reading of Elizabeth Rose of Kilravock** - Mark Towsey, 2007

**Article**

**Aberdeen and the Enlightenment: proceedings of a conference held at the University of Aberdeen** - Jennifer J. Carter, Joan H. Pittock (eds.), 1987

**Book**

**Professors, patronage and politics: the Aberdeen universities in the eighteenth century** - Roger L. Emerson, 1992



Book

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Science and the Aberdeen Enlightenment - Paul Wood

Chapter

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Science and the Pursuit of Virtue in Aberdeen - Paul Wood

Chapter

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Aberdeen and the European Enlightenment - Paul Wood

Chapter

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The Aberdeen enlightenment: the arts curriculum in the eighteenth century - Paul B. Wood, 1993

Book

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Orthodoxy and enlightenment: George Campbell in the eighteenth century - Jeffrey Suderman, 2001

Book

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The Glasgow Enlightenment - Andrew Hook, Richard B. Sher (eds.), 1995

Book

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Presbyterians and Provincial Society - Ned Landsman

Chapter

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Adam Smith and the Glasgow Merchants - J. A. Gherity, 1992

Article

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Glasgow - David Daiches, 1977

Book

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Glasgow: the making of a city - Andrew Gibb, 1983

Book

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Commerce, Religion and the Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century Glasgow - Richard Sher

Chapter

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Ayrshire in the Enlightenment - John Strawhorn

Chapter

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Scotland's Neglected Enlightenment - Roy Campbell, 1990

Article

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The pleasures of the imagination: English culture in the eighteenth century - John Brewer, 1997

Book | esp. cap. 12 [Available in the library and as an e-book.]

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A Dance in the Mind: The Provincial Scottish Philosophical Societies - Kathleen Holcomb, 1992

Article

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Provincial Intellectuals: Identity, Patriotism, and Enlightened Peripheries - Michael Kugler,

1996

[Article](#)**Beattie and his friends** - Margaret Forbes, 1990[Book](#)

## Week 10. Clubs and societies (16 items)

To a degree unimaginable today, eighteenth-century social life for the professional classes revolved around attendance at clubs, societies and other membership-based private institutions, which met in taverns, oyster bars and coffee houses not only in London, Dublin and Philadelphia but in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Shaped by Addison's journalism, these activities had profound cultural and political significance. We will examine the concerns of those who formed and patronised these organisations, and the role that they played in creating the civic world of the Scottish Enlightenment.

### Primary sources (2 items)

**Minute Book of the Newtonian Society (1760)** (Edinburgh University Library, MS. Gen. 1423)[\[photocopy\]](#)**H. Lewis Ulman, (ed.) Minutes of the Aberdeen Philosophical Society, 1758-1773 (1990)**[\[photocopy\]](#)**The pleasures of the imagination: English culture in the eighteenth century** - John Brewer, 1997[Book](#) | Esp. cap. 1. [Available in the library and as an e-book.]**Scotland's age of improvement: a survey of eighteenth-century literary clubs and societies** - Davis D. McElroy, 1969[Book](#)**British clubs and societies 1580-1800** - Peter Clark, 2000[Book](#)**The Enlightenment and Social Structure** - Roger Emerson[Chapter](#)**The Philosophical Society of Edinburgh, 1737-1747** - Roger L. Emerson, 1979[Article](#)**The Philosophical Society of Edinburgh 1748-1768** - Roger L. Emerson, 1981[Article](#)**The Philosophical Society of Edinburgh 1768-1783** - Roger L. Emerson, 1985[Article](#)

**The Social Composition of Enlightened Scotland: The Select Society of Edinburgh, 1754-1764** - Roger Emerson, 1973

Article

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**The Edinburgh Society for the Importation of Foreign Seeds** - Roger Emerson, 1982

Article

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**Thomas Reid in the Glasgow Literary Society** - Kathleen Holcomb

Chapter

---

**Science reorganized: scientific societies in the eighteenth century** - James E. McClellan, 1985

Book

---

**The Royal Society of Edinburgh (1783-1983): the first two hundred years** - Neil Campbell, R. Martin S. Smellie, 1983

Book

---

**The Beggar's Benison: sex clubs of Enlightenment Scotland and their rituals** - David Stevenson, 2001

Book

---

**A nation of readers: the lending library in Georgian England** - David Allan, 2008

Book | esp. caps 2 and 3.

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**Week 11: t.b.a.**

## V. PHILOSOPHICAL TRADITIONS (66 items)

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### Week 1. The great tradition: Hutcheson, Reid, Stewart (25 items)

Before the eighteenth century was over, Scotland's philosophers had acquired an international reputation whose impact may be traced in the university curricula of the nineteenth-century world. Frances Hutcheson, the proponent of the "moral sense", was the philosophical founding father of the Scottish Enlightenment. Later, the "common sense" school of Reid and Stewart, which attempted to counter the dangerous scepticism of David Hume, ensured the dominance of the "Scottish Philosophy". This topic will try to sketch out the cultural roots and the social and political context of these ideas.

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### Primary sources (8 items)

---

**Francis Hutcheson: an inquiry concerning beauty, order, harmony, design** - Francis Hutcheson, Peter Kivy (ed.), 1973

Book

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**An inquiry into the original of our ideas of beauty and virtue** - Francis Hutcheson, 1738

Book

---

**Dissertations moral and critical** - James Beattie, 1783

Book | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: s

PN6142.B4D5

---

**The theory of moral sentiments** - Adam Smith, Knud Haakonssen, 2002

[Book](#)

---

**Essays on the intellectual powers of man** - Thomas Reid, 2002

[Book](#) | The 1854 edition of this may be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: McK B1533.I5

---

**An inquiry into the human mind** - Thomas Reid, 1997

[Book](#) | The 1785 edition may be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: For B1533.I6D85

---

**Elements of the philosophy of the human mind** - Dugald Stewart, 1813

[Book](#) | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: For B1553.P5D92

---

**Outlines of moral philosophy** - Dugald Stewart, 1870

[Book](#) | 1829 Archive.org edition linked to via Online Resource button.

---

**A history of Scottish philosophy** - Alexander Broadie, 2009

[Book](#) | Caps 6, 7 and 9 [Available in the library and as an e-book.]

---

**Studies in the philosophy of the Scottish Enlightenment** - M. A Stewart, 1990

[Book](#)

---

**Philosophy and science in the Scottish Enlightenment** - Peter Jones, 1988

[Book](#)

---

**Philosophers of the Scottish enlightenment** - V. Hope, 1984

[Book](#)

---

**Francis Hutcheson: his life, teaching and position in the history of philosophy** - William R. Scott, 1992

[Book](#)

---

**Francis Hutcheson** - T. D. Campbell

[Chapter](#)

---

**Reid on ethics** - Sabine Roeser, 2010

[Book](#)

---

**James Beattie** - Everard H. King, 1977

[Book](#)

---

**Hume and the Origins of the Common Sense School** - George Davie, 1952

[Article](#)

---

**Hume and his Scottish Critics** - David Fate Norton

[Chapter](#) | [also other essays in this collection]

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**The System of the North: Dugald Stewart and His Pupils** - Donald Winch[Chapter](#)**The Scottish philosophy** - James McCosh, 1990[Book](#)**The social significance of the Scottish philosophy of common sense** - George E. Davie, 1973[Book](#)**The Scotch metaphysics: a century of enlightenment in Scotland** - George E. Davie, 2001[Book](#)**Man and society: the Scottish inquiry of the eighteenth century** - Gladys Bryson, 1968[Book](#)**On moral sentiments: contemporary responses to Adam Smith** - John Reeder, 1997[Book](#)**Character, Self, and Sociability in the Scottish Enlightenment** - Thomas Ahnert, Susan Manning, 2011[Book](#)**Week 2. David Hume: sceptical empiricism** (14 items)

David Hume was the most important and most original thinker produced by eighteenth-century Scotland. His principal achievement was to undermine faith in a series of prevailing philosophical orthodoxies and to advance the claims of scepticism to be taken seriously. His work, which greatly troubled his Scottish contemporaries, demands our own attention. We shall be especially concerned with his Scottish environment and with his contributions to contemporary Scottish debates.

**Primary sources** (3 items)**Dialogues concerning natural religion and other writings** - David Hume, 2007[Book](#)**A treatise of human nature: a critical edition** - Hume, David, 2007[Book](#)**Selected essays** - Hume, David, 1993

[Book](#) | David Hume essays "On the Immortality of the Soul", "On Suicide" and "The Sceptic"

**The Edinburgh history of Scottish literature** - Brown, Ian, 2007

[Book](#) | Ian Duncan, "Hume and the Scottish Enlightenment", in *Edinburgh History of Scottish Literature: Vol. II*

**A history of Scottish philosophy** - Alexander Broadie, 2009

[Book](#) | Cap 7. [Available in the library and as an e-book.]

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**British philosophy and the age of enlightenment** - Stuart Brown, 1996

[Book](#)

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**The life of David Hume** - Ernest Campbell Mossner, 1954

[Book](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

---

**David Hume, common-sense moralist, sceptical metaphysician** - David Fate Norton, 1982

[Book](#)

---

**The philosophy of David Hume: a critical study of its origins and central doctrines** - Norman Kemp Smith, 1941

[Book](#) | Available in the Library and as an e-book.

---

**Between Superstition and Enthusiasm** - Knud Haakonssen

[Chapter](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

---

**Hume's philosophy of common life** - Donald W. Livingston, 1984

[Book](#)

---

**The moral and political philosophy of David Hume** - John Benjamin Stewart, 1963

[Book](#)

---

**Opinion and reform in Hume's political philosophy** - John B. Stewart, 1992

[Book](#)

---

**Hume** - Nicholas Phillipson, 1989

[Book](#)

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### **Week 3. Philosophy of nature: Black and Hutton** (27 items)

Following the progress made in economic improvement and philosophical empiricism, the Scottish Enlightenment also claimed to be able to advance human knowledge and understanding of the natural world. The chemist Joseph Black and his friend James Hutton, the first modern geologist, tried to make good this claim. This topic will explore the connections between scientific and other thought in Scotland.

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### **Primary sources** (3 items)

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**The 1785 abstract of James Hutton's Theory of the earth** - James Hutton, 1987

[Book](#)

---

**History of Astronomy** - Adam Smith

[Chapter](#) | Link goes to Google e-book version.

---

**An account of Sir Isaac Newton's philosophical discoveries: in four books** - Colin Maclaurin, 1750

[Book](#) | 1748 edition may be available to consult at Special Collections at classmark: For QA35.M2N3

**Church and university in the Scottish Enlightenment: the moderate literati of Edinburgh -**

Richard B. Sher, 1985

**Book** | esp. cap. 8

---

**Seeking nature's logic: natural philosophy in the Scottish enlightenment -** David B. Wilson, 2009

**Book**

---

**Science and medicine in the Scottish Enlightenment -** Charles W.J. Withers, Paul Wood, 2002

**Book**

---

**The Rise and Fall of Scottish Science -** J. R. R. Christie

**Chapter**

---

**Philosophical chemistry in the Scottish Enlightenment: the doctrines and discoveries of William Cullen and Joseph Black -** Arthur L. Donovan, 1975

**Book**

---

**Scottish philosophy and British physics, 1750-1880: a study in the foundations of the Victorian scientific style -** Richard Olson, 1975

**Book**

---

**Hospital life in Enlightenment Scotland: care and teaching at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh -** Guenter B. Risse, 1986

**Book**

---

**Scotland's scientific heritage -** A. G. Clement, Robert H. S. Robertson, 1961

**Book**

---

**The University of Edinburgh in the Late Eighteenth Century: Its Scientific Eminence and Academic Structure -** J. B. Morrell

**Article**

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**Science, culture, and politics in Britain, 1750-1870 -** Jack Morrell, 1997

**Book**

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**James Hutton on Religion and Geology: the Unpublished Preface to his Theory of the Earth (1788). -** Dennis R. Dean

**Article**

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**James Hutton: the founder of modern geology -** Donald Bertram McIntyre, Alan McKirdy, 1997

**Book**

---

**Property, Patronage, and the Politics of Science: The Founding of the Royal Society of Edinburgh -** Steven Shapin, 2009

**Article**

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**The Audience for Science in Eighteenth Century Edinburgh -** Steven Shapin, 1974

**Article**

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Science - Steven Shapin

Chapter

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Geography, Science and National Identity in Early Modern Britain: The Case of Scotland and the Work of Sir Robert Sibbald (1641-1722). - Charles W.J. Withers, 1996

Article

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Geography, science and national identity: Scotland since 1520 - Charles W. J. Withers, 2001

Book

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Science and Moral Philosophy in the Scottish Enlightenment - Roger Emerson

Chapter

---

Science and the Origins and Concerns of the Scottish Enlightenment - Roger L. Emerson, 1988

Article

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Science, the Universities and the Public Sphere in Eighteenth-Century Scotland - Paul Wood, 1994

Article

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The Scientific Revolution in Scotland - Paul Wood

Chapter

---

Science reorganized: scientific societies in the eighteenth century - James E. McClellan, 1985

Book

---

The development of Newtonian calculus in Britain 1700-1800 - Niccolò Guicciardini, 1989

Book

---

The culture of nature in Britain, 1680-1860 - P. M. Harman, 2009

Book

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## VI. THE SCIENCE OF MAN (72 items)

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### Week 4. Materialism and commercial society (37 items)

A central achievement of the Scottish Enlightenment was the development, within what Hume called the "Science of Man", of a sophisticated analysis of the historical evolution of society as a reflection of its economic structure. Epitomised by Smith's *Wealth of Nations* and often dependent on conjectural theories of general human progress, the Scottish project was shaped both by commonplace Enlightenment assumptions and by the topical questions arising in a country undergoing rapid commercial and industrial change. Taking as our texts some of the most important works of European economic thought, we will ask why it was that eighteenth-century Scotland produced them.

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### Primary sources (5 items)

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**Political essays** - David Hume, Knud Haakonssen (ed), 1994

[Book](#) | esp. "Of the Origin of Government", "Of Commerce"

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**Political discourses** - David Hume, 1777

[Book](#) | Esp. "Of the Origin of Government", "Of Commerce" [1752 edition may be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: TypBE.D52FH ]

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**The wealth of nations** - Adam Smith, D. D. Raphael, 1991

[Book](#) | Various e-book editions also available via Saulcat.

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**Sketches of the history of man** - Kames, Henry Home, 2007

[Book](#) | Various e-book editions also available via Saulcat.

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**An historical view of the English government** - John Millar, Mark Phillips, Dale R. Smith (eds.), 2006

[Book](#) | Various e-book editions also available via Saulcat.

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**Man and society: the Scottish inquiry of the eighteenth century** - Gladys Bryson, 1968

[Book](#)

---

**The social theory of the Scottish Enlightenment** - Christopher J. Berry, 1997

[Book](#) | Caps. 2-7.

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**Virtue, learning and the Scottish Enlightenment: ideas of scholarship in early modern history** - David Allan, 1993

[Book](#) | Esp. caps. 4 and 5.

---

**The Scottish Enlightenment: an anthology** - Alexander Broadie, 1997

[Book](#)

---

**The Scottish Enlightenment, Unintended Consequences and the Science of Man** - Craig Smith, 2009

[Article](#)

---

**The Scottish contribution to Marxist sociology** - Ronald Meek, 1954

[Chapter](#)

---

**Social Science and Human Flourishing: the Scottish Enlightenment and Today** - Ryan Patrick Hanley, 2009

[Article](#)

---

**Economics and History - the Scottish Enlightenment** - A.S. Skinner, 1965

[Article](#)

---

**Origins of Sociology: The Case of the Scottish Enlightenment** - Alan Swingewood, 1970

[Article](#)

---

**Conjectural History and the Origins of Sociology** - Frank Palmeri, 2008

[Article](#)

---

**The Scottish moralists on human nature and society** - Louis Schneider, 1967

[Book](#)

---

**Scientific Whiggism: Adam Smith and John Millar** - Duncan Forbes, 1954

Article

---

**From Savage to Scotsman: Conjectural History in the Scottish Enlightenment** - H. M. Hopfl, 1978

Article

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**Scotland as the Model of Mankind: Lord Kames' Philosophical View of Civilization** - George Stocking

Chapter

---

**The Origin of Property and the Development of Scottish Historical Science** - Paul Bowles, 1985

Article

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**The rise of political economy in the Scottish enlightenment** - Tatsuya Sakamoto (ed.), 2003

Book

---

**Hume** - Nicholas Phillipson, 1989

Book

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**'This Inquisitive Age': Past and Present in the Scottish Enlightenment** - David Allan, 1997

Article

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**Sceptical Medievalism: The Problem of Arthurian Historicity in the Scottish Enlightenment** - David Allan

Chapter

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**Adam Smith: an enlightened life** - N. T. Phillipson, 2010

Book

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**Adam Smith and the character of virtue** - Ryan Patrick Hanley, 2009

Book

---

**The age of the passions: an interpretation of Adam Smith and Scottish Enlightenment culture** - John Dwyer, 1998

Book

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**Inventing human science: eighteenth-century domains** - Christopher Fox, Roy Porter, Robert Wokler, 1995

Book | Available in the library and as an e-book.

---

**The rise of social theory** - Johan Heilbron, Sheila Gogol, 1995

Book

---

**The emergence of civil society in the eighteenth century: a privileged moment in the history of England, Scotland, and France** - Marvin B. Becker, 1994

Book

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**On the wealth of nations: contemporary responses to Adam Smith** - Ian Simpson Ross, 1998

Book

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**Barbarism and religion** - J. G. A Pocock, 1999

[Book](#) | Vol. II: Narratives of Civil Government (1999), sect. V

---

**Society and sentiment: genres of historical writing in Britain, 1740-1820** - Mark Phillips, 2000

[Book](#)

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**Language, Sociability and History: Reflections on Smith's Science of Man** - Nicholas Phillipson

[Chapter](#)

---

**The case for the Enlightenment: Scotland and Naples, 1680-1760** - John Robertson, 2005

[Book](#)

---

**The idea of commercial society in the Scottish Enlightenment** - Christopher J. Berry, 2013

[Book](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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**The Scottish Enlightenment: race, gender, and the limits of progress** - Silvia Sebastiani, 2013

[Book](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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## **Week 5. Adam Ferguson: progress and decay** (17 items)

Adam Ferguson, now interred in the Priory churchyard in St Andrews, was one of the eighteenth century's most original and most influential thinkers. His singular achievement was to mingle classical Roman political morality with fashionable Enlightenment philosophizing in such a way as to produce a sceptical and thought-provoking analysis of modern society – selfish, deceitful and, in his view, on the road to destruction. This topic will examine how, in developing a critique of the moral basis of commercial society, this Scot managed to establish the new discipline of sociology.

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## **Primary sources** (2 items)

---

**Essay on the history of civil society** - Adam Ferguson, 1995

[Book](#) | Various e-book editions also available via Saulcat.

---

**The history of the progress and termination of the Roman Republic** - Adam Ferguson, 1852

[Book](#) | The 1805 edition may also be available to consult at Special Collections at classmark: s DG235.F3

---

**Adam Ferguson** - David Allan, 2006

[Book](#)

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**Adam Ferguson: history, progress and human nature** - Eugene Heath, Vincenzo Merolle (eds.), 2008

[Book](#)

---

**The social and political thought of Adam Ferguson** - David Kettler, 1965

[Book](#)

---

**Man and society: the Scottish inquiry of the eighteenth century** - Gladys Bryson, 1968

Book

---

**Adam Ferguson, Adam Smith, and the Problem of National Defense** - Richard B. Sher, 1989

Article

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**Ferguson and Montesquieu: Tacit Reproaches?** - Sheila Mason, 1988

Article

---

**Adam Ferguson and the Surprising Robustness of Civil Society** - Ernest Gellner

Chapter

---

**Conjectural History, Sociology and Social Change in Eighteenth-Century Scotland** - J. D. Brewer

Chapter

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**Civil or Commercial? Adam Ferguson's Concept of Civil Society** - J. Varty

Chapter

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**Translating the Enlightenment: Scottish civic discourse in eighteenth-century Germany** - Fania Oz-Salzberger, 1995

Book | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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**Barbarism and religion** - J. G. A Pocock, 1999

Book | Vol. II: Narratives of Civil Government (1999), sect. VI

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**Society and sentiment: genres of historical writing in Britain, 1740-1820** - Mark Phillips, 2000

Book

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**The passionate society: the social, political and moral thought of Adam Ferguson** - Lisa Hill, 2006

Book

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**Adam Ferguson in the Scottish enlightenment: the Roman past and Europe's future** - Iain McDaniel, 2013

Book

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**Philosophical History and the Science of Man in Scotland: Adam Ferguson's Response to Rousseau** - Iain McDaniel, 2013

Article

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## Week 6. William Robertson (18 items)

Robertson was perhaps the age's most popular historian, an international best-seller who combined elegantly philosophical histories with leadership of the Kirk and Principalsip of the University of Edinburgh. His studied moderation, his scepticism of previous historical orthodoxies and the extraordinary scope which conjectural methods gave to his narratives make him an example of Enlightenment history at its most distinctive. Again we will examine his works to see how they relate to the condition of eighteenth-century Scots.

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## Primary sources (2 items)

---

**The History of the Reign of Emperor Charles V** - William Robertson, 1782

[Book](#) | The 1869 edition may also be available to consult at Special Collections at classmark: s D7.P8E69

---

**The history of America** - William Robertson, 1777

[Book](#)

---

**Narratives of enlightenment: cosmopolitan history from Voltaire to Gibbon** - Karen O'Brien, 1997

[Book](#) | Caps. 3, 4 and 5. [Available in the Library and as an e-book.]

---

**William Robertson and the expansion of empire** - Stewart J. Brown, 1997

[Book](#)

---

**Philosophical History and the Scottish Reformation: William Robertson and the Knoxian Tradition** - Mary Fearnley-Sander, 2009

[Article](#)

---

**An Eighteenth-Century Questionnaire: William Robertson on the Indians** - Mary Duckworth, 1987

[Article](#)

---

**The Historical Writings of William Robertson** - D. J. Womersley, 1986

[Article](#)

---

**Hume and Robertson's History of Scotland** - D.J. Raynor, 1987

[Article](#)

---

**The Enlightenment Historian at Work: The Researches of William Robertson** - Jeremy Black, 1988

[Article](#)

---

**Between Enlightenment and Stadiac History: William Robertson on the History of Europe** - Karen O'Brien, 1993

[Article](#)

---

**The Making of Principal Robertson in 1762: Politics and the University of Edinburgh in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century** - Jeremy J. Cater, 1970

[Article](#)

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**William Robertson and the History of Europe** - J. G. A. Pocock

[Chapter](#)

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**Society and sentiment: genres of historical writing in Britain, 1740-1820** - Mark Phillips, 2000

[Book](#)

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**Barbarism and religion** - J. G. A. Pocock, 1999

[Book](#) | Vol. II: Narratives of Civil Government (1999), sect. IV

---

**The "Progress of Ambition": Character, Narrative, and Philosophy in the Works of William Robertson** - Neil Hargraves, 2002

[Article](#)

**Who are the Barbarians?: Scottish Views of Conquest and Indians and Robertson's History of America** - Alexander Du Toit, 1999

[Article](#)

**William Robertson, Early Orientalism and the Historical Disquisition on India of 1791** - Stewart J. Brown, 2009

[Article](#)

**Translations, histories, enlightenments: William Robertson in Germany, 1760-1795** - László Kontler, 2014

[Book](#)

## VII. LITERARY LIVES (56 items)

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### Week 7. A society of gentlemen: the Encyclopaedia Britannica and the literati (18 items)

In giving rise to the English-speaking world's best-known compendium of existing knowledge, the Scottish Enlightenment revealed much about its intellectual culture and about its assumption of the value of universal learning to polite, commercial society. More widely, the Encyclopaedia in successive editions provided a focus for the work of many leading Scottish scholars. This topic will also examine the condition and status of the "literati" – Scotland's writers and thinkers – in their own time.

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### Primary sources (4 items)

---

Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1st edition (1768-1771), sample articles

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**Dissertation Exhibiting a general view of the progress of metaphysical, ethical, and political philosophy since the revival of letters in Europe** - Dugald Stewart, 1822

[Book](#) | Supplement to 4th, 5th and 6th Editions of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 6 vols., (1815-24), Vol. I: 1-166, and V: 1-257

---

**My own life and times, 1741-1814** - Thomas Somerville, 1861

[Book](#) | E-book available via OpenLibrary

---

**Diary of George Ridpath** - George Ridpath, James Balfour Paul (ed.), 1922

[Book](#) | E-book available via OpenLibrary

---

**The pleasures of the imagination: English culture in the eighteenth century** - John Brewer, 1997

[Book](#) | Esp. cap. 3. [Available in the library and as an e-book.]

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**The early Britannica: the growth of an outstanding encyclopedia** - Frank A. Kafker, Jeff Loveland, 2009

[Book](#)

**The Achievement of Andrew Bell and Colin Macfarquhar** - Franz Kafker, 1995

Article

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**William Smellie's Edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica** - Franz Kafker, 1994

Article

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**Encyclopaedic visions: scientific dictionaries and Enlightenment culture** - Richard R. Yeo, 2001

Book

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**Henry Home, Lord Kames, and the Scottish enlightenment** - William Christian Lehmann, 1971

Book

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**Lord Kames and the Scotland of his day** - Ian Simpson Ross, 1972

Book

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**James Burnett, Lord Monboddo** - E.L. Cloyd, 1972

Book

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**The life of Robert Burns** - Franklyn Bliss Snyder, 1932

Book

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**Robert Adam and his circle in Edinburgh and Rome** - John Fleming, 1962

Book

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**James Boswell: the earlier years, 1740-1769** - Frederick A. Pottle, John David Fleeman, 1966

Book

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**Without regard to good manners: a biography of Gilbert Stuart, 1743-1786** - William Zachs, 1992

Book

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**Scottish men of letters in the eighteenth century** - Henry Grey Graham, 1901

Book

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**Creating a Canon: Dugald Stewart's Construction of the Scottish Enlightenment** - Michael Brown, 2001

Article

## **Week 8. Ossian and the novelists: sentiment and sensibility** (26 items)

In the translated Gaelic epic poems of Ossian, the Scottish Enlightenment unintentionally provided Napoleon Bonaparte with his favourite reading. However, their ingenious creator, James Macpherson, had also practised on Edinburgh's gullible literati one of the world's most notorious literary confidence tricks. Above all, Ossian tapped into a burgeoning cult of sentiment and sensibility among Scotland's readers and critics, a movement particularly associated with the raging fashion for the novels of Smollett and Mackenzie. We will examine how it was that the literati rashly embraced Macpherson's work, and why Scots from the 1760s onwards became caught up in the taste for literary emotionalism which ultimately gave rise to Romanticism.

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## Primary sources (3 items)

---

**The expedition of Humphry Clinker** - Tobias Smollett, 1990

Book

---

**The man of feeling** - Henry Mackenzie, 2001

Book

---

**The poems of Ossian** - James Macpherson, 1830

Book | Various e-book editions available via Saulcat.

---

**Smollett and the Scottish school** - M. A. Goldberg, 1959

Book

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**Tobias Smollett: Gentleman by Birth, Education and Profession** - M. A. Goldberg, 1982

Article

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**Scots, Savages, and Barbarians: Humphry Clinker and the Scots' Philosophy** - Andrew Sharp, 1994

Article

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**Smollett's Scotlands: Culture, Politics and Nationhood in "Humphry Clinker" and Defoe's "Tour"** - Tom Keymer, 1995

Article

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**A Scottish man of feeling: some account of Henry Mackenzie** - Harold William Thompson, 1931

Book

---

**Virtuous discourse: sensibility and community in late eighteenth-century Scotland** - John Dwyer, 1987

Book | esp. cap. 1 and 6.

---

**Fragments of History and The Man of Feeling: From Richard Bentley to Walter Scott** - Everett Zimmerman, 1990

Article

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**A 'Sickly Sort of Refinement'** - W.J. Burling, 1988

Article

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**Scottish literature and the Scottish people, 1680-1830** - David Craig, 1961

Book

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**The paradox of Scottish culture: the eighteenth-century experience** - David Daiches, 1964

Book

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**The protean Scot: the crisis of identity in eighteenth century Scottish literature** - Kenneth Simpson, 1988

Book

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**Inventing and resisting Britain: cultural identities in Britain and Ireland, 1685-1789** - Murray Pittock, 1997



[Book](#)

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**The Rehabilitation of Scottish Jacobitism** - Colin Kidd, 1998

[Article](#)

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**From rebel to hero: image of the Highlander, 1745-1830** - Robert Clyde, 1995

[Book](#)

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**The sublime savage: a study of James MacPherson and the poems of Ossian** - Fiona J. Stafford, 1988

[Book](#)

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**'Those Scotch Imposters and Their Cabal': Ossian and the Scottish Enlightenment** - Richard Sher

[Chapter](#)

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**Ossian revisited** - Howard Gaskill, 1991

[Book](#)

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**Church and university in the Scottish Enlightenment: the moderate literati of Edinburgh** - Richard B. Sher, 1985

[Book](#) | esp. cap. 6.

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**The Imperative of Sociability: Moral Culture in the Late Scottish Enlightenment** - John Dwyer, 1990

[Article](#)

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**Enlightened Spectators and Classical Moralists** - John Dwyer, 1991

[Article](#)

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**The age of the passions: an interpretation of Adam Smith and Scottish Enlightenment culture** - John Dwyer, 1998

[Book](#) | esp. cap. 6.

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**James Macpherson's Ossian: Forging Ancient Highland Identity for Scotland** - Stefan Hall

[Chapter](#)

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**Ossian** - Mary-Ann Constantine

[Chapter](#)

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## **Week 9. Sir Walter Scott: history and society** (12 items)

The "Great Unknown", the long-anonymous author of *Waverley* and of several other Scottish-based novels which enjoyed sensational literary success in Britain, Europe and North America, was a complex product of the Scottish Enlightenment, both an admiring pupil and a wary critic of its leading figures. In Scott the exploration of Scotland's own identity and historical development reached out to a worldwide audience, in the process shaping an understanding of "Scottishness" - a land of misty mountains, lonely glens and betartaned heroes - which remains extraordinarily prevalent to this day. Our task will be to explain why this happened and how Scotland's experiences in the eighteenth century shaped what were the first genuine historical novels.

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## Primary sources (1 items)

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**Waverley** - Walter Scott, Andrew Hook (ed.), 1985

Book

**The Laird of Abbotsford: a view of Sir Walter Scott** - A. N. Wilson, 1980

Book

**Sir Walter Scott and history: with other papers** - James Anderson, 1981

Book

**The Manufacture of Scottish history** - Ian Donnachie, Christopher A. Whatley (eds.), 1992

Book

**The Rationalism of Sir Walter Scott** - Duncan Forbes, 1953

Article

**Making History: Scotland, 1814** - David Richards

Chapter

**Sir Walter Scott: History, Tradition and the Experience of National Identity** - Horst Drescher, 1992

Article

**Macaulay, Scott, and the Literary Challenge to Historiography** - Mark Phillips, 1989

Article

**Scott and his Scotland** - Victor Kiernan, 1993

Article

**Scott's Guy Mannering: The Limits and Limitations of Anglo-British Identity** - Andrew Lincoln, 1999

Article

**The high road: Romantic tourism, Scotland, and literature, 1720-1820** - John Glendening, 1997

Book

**Possible Scotlands: Walter Scott and the story of tomorrow** - Caroline McCracken-Flesher, 2005

Book | Available in the library and as an e-book.

## VIII: DECLINE AND FALL (23 items)

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### Week 10: Why did the Scottish enlightenment die? (23 items)

By as early as the 1790s and with growing finality by the 1820s, Scottish commentators expressed the view that their Golden Age was over: the Scottish Enlightenment had fizzled out. Explaining this has remained a major problem for the historian: was Scotland's cultural decline simply about the death of certain key individuals or was there something

more fundamental at work, a changed and hostile environment or the growing influence of new and less conducive ideas and philosophies? We will examine some contemporary testimony, and attempt to answer this question for ourselves.

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## Primary sources (3 items)

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**The Modern Athens: a dissection and demonstration** - Robert Mudie, 1825

**Book** | This may also be available to consult in Special Collections at classmark: s DA890.E4M8

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**Peter's letters to his kinfolk** - John Gibson Lockhart,, William Ruddick (ed.), 1977

**Book**

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**Signs of the Times** - Thomas Carlyle, 1829

**Article**

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**Church and university in the Scottish Enlightenment: the moderate literati of Edinburgh** - Richard Sher, 1985

**Book** | esp. cap. 8

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**Virtue, learning and the Scottish Enlightenment: ideas of scholarship in early modern history** - David Allan, 1993

**Book** | esp. cap. 6.

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**The Age of Pericles in the Modern Athens: Greek History, Scottish Politics, and the Fading of Enlightenment** - David Allan, 2001

**Article**

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**The Rise (and Fall?) of the Scottish Enlightenment?** - Alexander Broadie

**Chapter** | Available in the library and as an e-book.

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**The democratic intellect: Scotland and her universities in the nineteenth century** - George E. Davie, 1981

**Book**

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**Popular Philosophy in Early Nineteenth-Century Scotland** - Nathalie Rosset, 2007

**Article**

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**The strange death of Scottish history** - Marinell Ash, 1980

**Book**

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**That noble science of politics: a study in nineteenth-century intellectual history** - Stefan Collini, Donald Winch, J. A. Burrow, 1983

**Book**

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**Rethinking the politics of commercial society: the Edinburgh Review 1802-1832** - Biancamaria Fontana, 1985

**Book**

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**Politics and reviewers: the 'Edinburgh' and the 'Quarterly' in the early Victorian age** - Joanne Shattock, 1989

Book

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**The Scottish Enlightenment and early Victorian English society** - Anand C. Chitnis, 1986

Book

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**An Enlightenment Tory in Victorian Scotland: the career of Sir Archibald Alison** - Michael Michie, 1997

Book

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**Subverting Scotland's past** - Colin Kidd, 1993

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**"The Strange Death of Scottish History" Revisited: Constructions of the Past in Scotland, c. 1790-1914** - Colin Kidd, 1997

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**Scotland and the French Revolution** - Henry W. Meikle, 1969

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**Enlightenment to Renaissance: Scottish Culture in the Nineteenth Century** - Christopher Harvie

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**The eclipse of Scottish culture: inferiorism and the intellectuals** - Craig Beveridge, Ronald Turnbull, 1989

Book

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**Scotland in the age of the Disruption** - Stewart J Brown, Michael Fry (eds.), 1993

Book

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**Scottish men of letters and the new public sphere, 1802-1834** - Barton Swaim, 2009

Book

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**Intellectual politics and cultural conflict in the Romantic period: Scottish Whigs, English radicals and the making of the British public sphere** - Alex Benchimol, 2010

Book

**Week 11: t.b.a.**

The Scottish Enlightenment refers to the period of intellectual ferment in Scotland, between roughly the 1740s and 1790s. During this period, Scottish academicians and intellectuals distinguished themselves for numerous breakthroughs philosophy, ethics, history, jurisprudence, sociology, political science and, of course, economics. These questions were foremost on the minds of the Scottish philosophers of the 18th Century. As so many times before, they looked to their French counterparts for answers.

The Scottish Enlightenment began in the mid 18th century and continued for the best part of a century. It marked a paradigm shift from religion into reason. Everything was examined: art, politics, science, medicine and engineering, but it was all begot by philosophy. The Scottish people thought, discovered, discoursed, experimented, wrote, but above all questioned! The Scottish Enlightenment (Scots: Scottis Enlightenment) was the period in 18th century Scotland characterised by an outpouring of intellectual and scientific accomplishments. By 1750, Scots were among the most literate citizens of Europe, with an estimated 75% level of literacy.[1] But it was a few hundred men who made the Enlightenment.