

The background of the slide is a classical landscape painting. It depicts a large, partially ruined classical building with several columns and arches, situated on a hillside. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting either sunrise or sunset. In the foreground, there are trees and a path leading towards the ruins. The overall style is characteristic of 18th or 19th-century landscape art.

*ROMANTICISM @ WESTERN* and  
*THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THEORY AND CRITICISM* present

# “Adam Smith and Problems of Historical Scale in the Later Eighteenth Century”

Jonathan Sachs (Concordia University)

February 3, 2012 ☞ 3:30pm  
Somerville House Room 2348

**Jonathan Sachs** is Associate Professor of English at Concordia University. He has a PhD in English Literature from the University of Chicago and BA and MA degrees from the University of Cambridge. In addition to numerous articles, he is the author of *Romantic Antiquity: Rome in the British Imagination, 1789-1832* (OUP 2010).

His current project is a book-length study of cultural decline which seeks to explain anxieties about decline in connection with three other major features of the late 18th century: the development of political economy, the rapid expansion of print media, and the emergent fascination with ruins. The book uses each of these categories to raise questions about how changing conceptions of progress and decline can help to index new Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment ways of understanding time and historical experience.