My research examines the work of French scholars in the period around 1700, positioning new knowledge about the Mediterranean in relation to larger, global networks of information-gathering that were part of the French administration of commerce and maritime affairs. The work of these scholars built on a rhetoric crystallized in the context of the late seventeenth-century *Battle of the Ancients and Moderns* that contrasted flawed knowledge-making about the Mediterranean produced in antiquity with systematic, universal knowledge-production that was the hallmark of modern scientific inquiry cultivated by the French crown through the royal academies in Paris.

I argue that between 1650 and 1750, the Mediterranean served as a microcosm for reflections on the global and was a uniquely potent space at the intersection of ancient textual and material culture on the one hand and the early modern natural sciences on the other. Well into the eighteenth century, building knowledge about the Mediterranean continued to involve a complex understanding of ancient sources, while developments in the natural sciences contributed to the renewal of scholarship in the humanities.

**All Are Welcome!**

Please join us. Light refreshments will be served.

*This lecture is brought to you by the University Honors College*