
**Citation:**

**Abstract:**
The way Lord Kames practices criticism in *Elements of Criticism* (1762) is not motivated by the new philosophy per se. His use of the new philosophy in the practice of criticism addresses social, political, and nationalistic circumstances. After showing what it means for Kames to practice criticism as a rational science, I use his Shakespeare criticism as a case study to illustrate select motivations for practicing criticism as a rational science.