

**Ohio State University**  
**Political Science 671**  
**Early Modern Political Thought**  
**11:30-1:18 TTh Winter 2007**  
**Eric MacGilvray**

Office hours: T 1:30-2:30 or by appt.  
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## Overview

Beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century political thinkers began to shift their attention from a discussion of the relationship between power and virtue to one regarding the origins and limits of political authority. The concerns raised by this debate, which centered around the idea of the “social contract,” include the problem of rendering the exercise of political power legitimate, of striking an appropriate balance between individual liberty and the public interest, and of governing a selfish and potentially violent human nature. Although the particular treatment of these issues may at times seem foreign to us, we can find in these texts the origins of the modern liberal-democratic conception of politics.

## Readings

The following books are required and should be available for purchase at the OSU bookstores:

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett)

John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (Hackett)

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)

These books have also been placed on 2-hour reserve at Sullivant Library (n.b. the Locke texts are on reserve in a different edition, in one volume from Yale University Press)

In addition, a number of required readings have been placed on e-reserve through Carmen.

## Requirements

- (1) Two papers on assigned topics, 5-6 pages each (c. 1,500-1,800 words):
  - 1st paper due at noon on Friday, February 2 [33%]
  - 2nd paper due at noon on Friday, February 23 [33%]
- (2) In-class final examination: Wednesday, March 14, 11:30-1:18 [33%]
- (3) Class attendance and active participation

## Policies and procedures

**Academic honesty:** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)

Note: OSU now has a license to the Turnitin.com plagiarism prevention software, which scans student papers to determine if they contain undocumented source material. Student will be asked to submit their papers electronically to Turnitin.com, and the papers will then be forwarded to me along with an “originality report” flagging suspect passages, if any. I will give details on the procedures for submitting papers when I distribute the first assignment. More information about Turnitin.com is available at <http://turnitin.com/static/index.html>

**Late work:** Each student will be granted ONE extension this term on a paper of your choice, no questions asked, which entitles you to hand it in any time before class on Monday following the due date with no penalty. There is no need to tell me in advance that you are taking the extension, and no other extensions will be granted. Late essays will be penalized one full grade. Essays will not be accepted more than one week after the extension date without my approval.

**Disabilities:** If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me as soon as possible to arrange an appointment where we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307; TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>

## Schedule

January 4	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , dedicatory letter & introduction	
January 9	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 1-7, 12	
January 11	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 10-11, 13-16	
January 16	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 17-20	
January 18	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 21, 26, 29-30	
January 23	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 31-32, 35, 39, 43, Review & Conclusion	
January 25	Locke, <i>Letter on Toleration</i> , entire	
January 30	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 1-5	
February 1	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 6-10	
February 2 (Friday)	FIRST PAPER DUE, 12:00 pm	
February 6	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 11-15	
February 8	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 16-19	
February 13	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , preface, exordium & part 1	[e-reserve]
February 15	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , part 2	[e-reserve]
February 20	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , epistle dedicatory Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 1	[e-reserve] [e-reserve]
February 22	Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 2	[e-reserve]
February 23 (Friday)	SECOND PAPER DUE, 12:00 pm	
February 27	Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 3	[e-reserve]
March 1	Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 4	[e-reserve]
March 6	Constant, "Liberty of the Ancients and the Moderns"	[e-reserve]
March 8	Review	
March 14 (Wednesday)	FINAL EXAM, 11:30 am - 1:18 pm	