

Ohio State University
Political Science 471
Early Modern Political Thought
9:30-11:18 MW Winter 2012
Eric MacGilvray

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

Why do we have government? What are the proper limits of its authority? What should we do when its demands conflict with our moral and religious beliefs? These questions lie at the center of early modern political thought, and gave rise to the idea of the “social contract.” The problems addressed by these thinkers include the problem of defining the conditions under which the exercise of political power is legitimate, striking the right balance between individual freedom and the common good, and controlling a selfish and potentially violent human nature. Although their treatment of these issues may seem foreign to us at times, these texts provide the foundation 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)

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

Requirements

(1) 2 papers on assigned topics, 4-5 pages (1200-1500 words) each worth 33% of the final grade:

- 1st paper due at noon on Friday, February 3
- 2nd paper due at noon on Friday, February 24

(2) In-class final examination on Wednesday, March 14 from 9:30-11:18. The exam will cover all of the course material in short-answer format, and is also worth 33% of the final grade. We will hold a review session during the last scheduled class session.

(3) Class attendance and active participation are expected. Grades will be adjusted up or down by as much as one-third of a grade for exceptionally good or poor participation.

Policies and procedures

Academic misconduct: 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.

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

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.

Core course: This course is a core course in the Critical and Cultural Theory minor. Information regarding the minor and its requirements can be found online at <http://artsandsciences.osu.edu/students/minors>.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. 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, 2 ¶¶1-5), 3-5, 6 (¶¶1-7, 49-59), 7	
January 11	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 10 (¶¶1-16), 11 (¶¶1-10, 21-27), 13-14, 15 (¶¶1-10, 35-41)	
January 16	NO CLASS (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)	
January 18	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 17-18, 19 (¶¶1-10), 20 ¶¶1-15, 18-19)	
January 23	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 21, 26 (¶¶1-21, 40-45)	
January 25	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 12 (¶¶1-12), 31-32, 43 (¶¶1-9, 18-24)	
January 30	Locke, <i>Letter on Toleration</i> , entire	
February 1	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , preface, chaps. 1-5	
February 3 (Friday)	FIRST PAPER DUE, 12:00 pm	
February 6	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 6-7, 8 (§§95-99, 119-122), 9-11	
February 8	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 14-15, 18-19	
February 13	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , preface, exordium, part 1 (incl. notes 9 & 15)	[e-reserve]
February 15	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , part 2 (incl. notes 16-19)	[e-reserve]
February 20	Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 1 “Geneva Manuscript,” selections	[e-reserve]
February 22	Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 2	[e-reserve]
February 24 (Friday)	SECOND PAPER DUE, 12:00 pm	
February 27	Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 3	[e-reserve]
February 29	Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 4	[e-reserve]
March 5	Hume, “Of the Original Contract”; “Of Passive Obedience”	[e-reserve]
March 7	Review	
March 14	FINAL EXAM, 9:30 am - 11:18 pm	