

Ohio State University
Political Science 5412 (Graduate)
Life, Liberty, and Property:
Early Modern Political Thought
11:10-12:30 WF Fall 2017
Eric MacGilvray

Office hours: W 1:00-2:00 or by appt.
2026 Derby Hall

macgilvray.2@osu.edu
(614) 292-3710

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 or 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 liberty and the common good, and controlling a selfish and potentially violent human nature. Taken together, these texts provide the theoretical underpinnings for modern liberal democracies.

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) A 5-6 page (1,500-1,800 word) paper is due on Monday, October 2, Monday, October 30 and Monday, November 27. Each paper will respond to the same prompt (a choice of prompts will be distributed at the end of the fifth week). You will hand in a revised version of your previous paper(s) along with the second and third papers, so that by the end of the term you will have a 15-18 page (4,500-5,400 word) paper responding to the relevant prompt. The paper is worth 75% of your final grade.
- (2) There will be an-class final examination on Thursday, December 14 from 12:00-1:45 pm. The exam will cover all of the course material in short-answer format, and is worth 25% of the final grade. We will hold a review session during the last scheduled class.
- (3) Careful reading preparation and active class participation are expected. Grades will be adjusted up or down by as much as one-third of a grade on this basis. We will hold three extra meetings at a time to be agreed upon to discuss some supplementary readings.

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/csc>.

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 Friday 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 is a core course in the Cultural and Critical Theory minor. Information regarding the minor and its requirements can be found online at <http://ascadvising.osu.edu/programs/minors/list>.

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 098 Baker Hall, 113 West 12th Avenue; telephone 292-3307; TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>

Schedule

August 23	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , dedicatory letter	
August 25	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , introduction, chaps. 1-5	
August 30	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 6-7, 10-12	
September 1	NO CLASS [PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE]	
September 6	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 13-15	
September 8	NO CLASS [PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE]	
September 13	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , 17-20	
September 15	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 21, 26	
September 20	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 29-30	
September 22	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chaps. 31-32, 43	
September 27	John Locke, <i>Letter on Toleration</i> , entire	
September 29	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , preface, chaps. 1-4	
October 2 (Mon)	FIRST SECTION OF PAPER DUE, 12:00 pm	
October 4	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 5-6	
October 6	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 7-10	
October 11	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 11-16	
October 13	NO CLASS [FALL BREAK]	
October 18	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chaps. 17-19	
October 20	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , front matter	[e-reserve]
October 25	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , part 1 (incl. notes 9 & 15)	[e-reserve]
October 27	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , part 2 (incl. notes 16-19)	[e-reserve]
October 30 (Mon)	SECOND SECTION OF PAPER DUE, 12:00 pm	
November 1	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 1	[e-reserve]
	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, "Geneva Manuscript," selections	[e-reserve]
November 3	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 2	[e-reserve]

November 8	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 3	[e-reserve]
November 10	NO CLASS [VETERANS DAY]	
November 15	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>On the Social Contract</i> , book 4	[e-reserve]
November 17	Immanuel Kant, "Idea of a Universal History" Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"	[e-reserve] [e-reserve]
November 27 (Mon)	THIRD SECTION OF PAPER DUE, 12:00 pm	
November 29	David Hume, "Of the Original Contract"; "Of Passive Obedience"	[e-reserve]
December 1	David Hume, "Of Commerce"; "Of Refinement in the Arts"	[e-reserve]
December 6	Review	
December 14 (Th)	FINAL EXAM, 12:00 – 1:45 pm	

Note: We will schedule three meetings outside of regular class time to discuss the following texts:

Weeks 2-5	John Milton, "The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates," selections John Milton, "The Ready and Easy Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth," selections	[e-reserve] [e-reserve]
Weeks 6-9	Charles de Montesquieu, <i>The Spirit of the Laws</i> , selections	[e-reserve]
Weeks 10-13	Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> , selections	[e-reserve]