

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL 6000, Value Theory:  
Hobbes, Locke, and the Origins of Political Equality  
Fall 2015**

**Prof. K. Wendling**

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Office hours: M 12:00-1:20 p.m.,  
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and by appointment

In this course we examine the origins of liberalism and modern social contract theories, through careful reading of Hobbes' *Leviathan* and Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*. We will examine several key concepts in these works — the postulate of initial equality, natural law and natural right, property, the family, the state of nature, reasons for the formation of civil society, and the nature of the contract. We will give particular attention to the idea of political equality, for in Hobbes' and Locke's works we see examples of its first coherent articulation in western philosophy. We will work to understand *Leviathan* and the *Two Treatises* on their own terms and in historical context, and we will also discuss the contemporary relevance of their ideas.

Required Texts

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*  
John Locke, *The Two Treatises of Government*  
plus some supplementary readings

Course Requirements

- 10 weekly commentaries on the readings, pass/fail, 2% each = 20%
- participation, 10%
- either two essays of 2000-2500 words each, due November 2 and December 8, or a final essay of 4000-5000 words, due December 8

## Schedule

Sept. 14	Introduction
Sept. 21	<i>Leviathan</i> , chs. 13-17
Sept. 28	<i>Leviathan</i> , chs. 18-22
Oct. 5	<i>Leviathan</i> , chs. 23-27
(Oct. 12	Thanksgiving – no class)
Oct. 19	<i>Leviathan</i> , chs. 28-31 plus A Review and a Conclusion
Oct. 26	secondary literature on Hobbes TBA
Nov. 2	<i>First Treatise</i> , chs. 1-9
Nov. 9	<i>Second Treatise</i> , chs. 1-4
Nov. 16	<i>Second Treatise</i> , chs. 5-7
Nov. 23	<i>Second Treatise</i> , chs. 8-15
Nov. 30	<i>Second Treatise</i> , chs. 16-19
Fri., Dec. 4	secondary literature on Locke TBA