

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

74-3410-01

Major Texts in the History of Philosophy

Instructor: Dr. J. Harvey

Winter 2013

Tuesday & Thursday 11.30 am - 12.50 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will be looking at the social and political philosophy of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke and the key readings will consist of selections from Hobbes's *Leviathan* and Locke's *The Second Treatise of Government*. Both Hobbes and Locke lived through some extraordinary times and we will look briefly at some of the historical events they each witnessed, some of which radically changed the direction of political thought.

Hobbes's political priority is on a very strong and powerful sovereign/ government and we will look at his arguments for this priority. (If we change his language to modern day English, then Hobbes could be a post-911 politician running for election in the US!) We will look at the different kinds of power he claims a good government must have and his reasons for these claims. We will think about the issues involved in these key points of Hobbes, as we go along. Locke challenges Hobbes on a number of these key points and we will look at his reasons for claiming that Hobbes has it wrong. (Locke is quite radical in his political philosophy in a number of ways. In fact, some of his claims would be radical even today.) Again, we will think about some of the issues as we go along.

So in both cases we are not simply reading to see what each says (although we need to do that). Rather, we are seeing what they say in order to do some thinking about the issues they raise. Looking at key points from both Hobbes and Locke is helpful here since there are some fierce disputes between them and that sets us thinking ourselves.

What kinds of issues will arise? Why should we have a government at all? Are there limitations that should be placed on a government's power? What type of government is morally appropriate and what should the government's top priorities be? Are there some basic social institutions that all well ordered societies should have? Are there some that ought to be promoted by any government? What are the morally sound limits on individual liberty? What role should a government have with respect to such liberty? Etc.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Mineola, NY: Dover Thrift Edition, 2006), ISBN 0486447944.
2. John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Mineola, NY: Dover Thrift Edition, 2002), ISBN 0486424642.
NB: These editions----so that all page references can be accurately found by anyone in the course.
3. There may be one or two other readings on reserve for later in the course. We'll see how the timing goes.

EVALUATION:

Students are advised that attending all classes, keeping detailed lecture notes, and working on those notes (in ways that will be explained) are crucial in achieving a passing grade in the course, and each student is responsible for taking and working on his/her own detailed class-notes. The class-content is the most important part of the course; the readings cannot substitute for this content.

In-Class Exam #1:	(worth 25% of the course grade)
In-Class Exam #2:	(worth 30%)
Term Paper: Outline (meeting the specifications):	(worth 15%)
Paper itself:	(worth 30%)

IN-CLASS EXAMS: PLEASE NOTE that since the two exams are given in class-times, no provision will be made for “alternate times”. E.g., if other courses schedule events that are expected to occur at times when *this* course holds classes (class-times you have already committed to by registering in this course), then the regular class-times for Phil 3410 (and any evaluation items given in those times) are the first commitment and alternative times for those evaluations will not be provided.

From undergraduate regulations (University Undergraduate Calendar):

“... if there is a scheduling conflict between a scheduled class for another course and the proposed time for the mid-term examination, the scheduled class takes priority”

I.e., since the two in-class exams are held in regular, scheduled class-times, they take precedence over any other items such as mid-terms scheduled outside of class-time for another course.

PLEASE, THEREFORE, MAKE A NOTE OF THOSE DATES RIGHT AWAY.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: The University of Guelph takes a very serious view of Academic Misconduct. This includes such activities as **cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation of material, unauthorized collaboration or co-operation, and submitting the same material for credit on two different occasions without prior written permission from both instructors.** Students are expected to be familiar with the section on Academic Misconduct in the Undergraduate Calendar. If an instructor suspects that academic misconduct has occurred, that instructor has the right to examine students orally on the content or any other facet of submitted work.

Please see also the “STANDARD STATEMENTS”, which is a handout that is required to be distributed with all course-descriptions in the College of Arts.

HANDED OUT IN THE FIRST CLASS or POSTED ON D2L.

PHILOSOPHY 3410W13 Major Texts in the History of Philosophy Dr. J. Harvey
SCHEDULE OF DATES

**** **PLEASE NOTE:** Hand-in times for Term Paper Outline and for Term Paper itself are **IN THE CLASS** on that day (not “sometime that day”). Please see “Practical Matters and Policies.” Both of these assignments to be handed in **in hard copy only** and prepared in accordance with the “Practical Preparation” handout. **No electronic submissions.**

JAN T 8
Th 10

T 15 ----: REQUIRED CLASS on course work
----: And OPTIONAL SAMPLE “Print & Margins” **handed in in class**
Th 17 ----: (Required class on course work---remainder, if needed)

T 22
Th 24

T 29
Th 31 ----: IN-CLASS EXAM #1

FEB T 5 ----: TERM PAPER handed out / posted
Th 7

T 12
Th 14

M 18 - 22 : WINTER BREAK

T 26
Th 28

MAR T 5 ----: TERM PAPER OUTLINE **handed in in class, hard copy only**
Th 7

*******FRIDAY, MAR 8 : OUTLINES TO BE PICKED UP in special appointment times from my office** -----And last day to drop the course.

T 12
Th 14

T 19 ----: IN-CLASS EXAM #2
Th 21

T 26
((Th 28))

APR T 2 ----: TERM PAPER **handed in in class, hard copy only**
Th 4