

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

74-3410-01

Major Texts in the History of Philosophy

Instructor: Dr. J. Harvey

Winter 2011

Tuesday & Thursday 11.30 am - 12.50 pm

BRIEF 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 challenged 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 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.

**LAPTOP FREE COURSE:**

No laptops are allowed in the classroom without the written permission of the instructor. Such permission will be given only when the request is supported by documentation from CSD establishing the need for the use of a laptop.

**RECORDING OF MATERIALS:**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work--including lectures--cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the prior, written permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate, or a guest lecturer.

**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 and does not duplicate the readings.

First Formal Evaluation:	In-Class Exam	(worth 30% of the course grade)
Second Formal Evaluation:	In-Class Essay	(worth 30%)
Third Formal Evaluation:	Final Exam	(worth 40%)

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**FORMAL IN-CLASS EVALUATIONS:** PLEASE NOTE that since these two formal evaluations 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 the formal evaluations given in those times) are the first commitment and alternative times for those evaluations will not be provided.

**FINAL EXAM:** PLEASE NOTE the following regulation from the Undergraduate Calendar:

“Students are advised that the Final Examination schedules are available for Fall Semester by mid-August, for Winter Semester by mid-December, and for Summer Semester by mid-April. Students are required to consult the final examination timetable in order to avoid conflicts in examination times when adding courses. Written approval must be obtained from the dean or director and the instructor-in-charge of the course to register in courses that have conflicting examination times.”

The Final Exam for this course will not be re-scheduled or given at an alternative time (except for documented cases that fall within the university provisions--in which case a completely new exam will be drawn up). If there is a conflict of Final Exam times, it will be necessary to adjust your course selection and schedule.

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**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. 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.

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

HANDED OUT IN THE FIRST CLASS

