

PH 330 (01) Hobbes

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Office hours Tues 1-3 [and by appointment]
 Wed 11-1

General policies

Attendance

Prompt attendance at all class meetings is required. You will be allowed two unexcused absences, but for each additional absence your final grade for the course may fall as much as one notch (e.g., from a B to a B-minus). Arriving late twice counts as an unexcused absence.

Participation

Please come to class prepared to participate. Do the assigned reading before class and bring it with you. Be prepared to ask and answer questions about the reading and about the material covered in the previous class. You will be called upon regularly to ask and answer questions, so if you are not well prepared for class it will soon be obvious to everyone. Occasionally, short quizzes will also be given at the beginning of class. Good participation may raise your final grade as much as one notch (e.g., from a B to a B-plus); poor participation may lower it one notch.

Assignments

All written work must be handed in on time. To hand in an assignment on time, you must bring a hard copy with you at the beginning of class on the day that it is due. Grades on late assignments will drop one notch for each day late. Plagiarism will be punished severely.

Required Texts

Thomas Hobbes, **Leviathan or The Matter, Forme and Power of a Commonwealth Ecclesiasticall and Civil** (1651), with selected variants from the Latin edition of 1668, edited by Edwin Curley (Hackett, 1994) (0-87220-177-5).

Richard Tuck, **Hobbes: A Very Short Introduction** (Oxford University Press, 1989) (978-0-19-280255-2)

Supplementary Readings

On the history of philosophy, from *An Autobiography* by R. G. Collingwood

From the Bible, excerpts from Job, Exodus, Paul's Letters to the Romans and Galatians

Plato, *Protagoras*

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, *Politics*, *Rhetoric*

Moses Maimonides, *Guide for the Perplexed*

St Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, On Law

Quentin Skinner, *Visions of Politics*, Vol. 3, Hobbes and Civil Science

Ch 3 Hobbes's changing conception of civil science

Ch 4 Hobbes on rhetoric and the construction of morality

Ch 6 Hobbes and the purely artificial person of the state

Ch 7 Hobbes on the proper signification of liberty

Note: It is strongly recommended that you have a Bible ready to hand for easy reference.

Course Requirements

10 one-two page papers	10 x 5 =	50
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Midterm paper		20
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Final paper		30
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The weekly short papers are supposed to serve several purposes. First, they require you to read carefully and thus help you get prepared for fruitful discussions in our class meetings. Second, they give you an opportunity to work through a broad range of topics and to emulate Hobbes's wide-ranging interests. Finally, they should help you formulate the topics you want to work on in greater detail in your longer papers.

The midterm paper will deal with the first two parts of *Leviathan*: Hobbes's account of human beings and political associations. The final paper will include a re-write of the midterm paper, and a new, second section on parts three and four of *Leviathan*: Hobbes's account of religion and its proper role in human political life. The final result will thus be your response to *Leviathan* as a whole.

Apart from these general guidelines, it is your responsibility to decide what questions in particular you want to ask about Hobbes's philosophy and its relevance for understanding the theological-political aspect of human life. We will work on this together as we proceed—as you write your short papers and I respond to them.

Course Description

Matter

Our primary goal is to read Hobbes's *Leviathan* and come to an understanding of the work as a whole. Although we will not read every page, we will read the central chapters of all four parts and the Latin appendix. We also aim to gain an overview of Hobbes's philosophy as a whole, since *Leviathan* addresses all his major concerns about scientific inquiry, physics, human psychology and language, ethics, politics, history and religion.

Form

Our strategy is to read *Leviathan* from three angles:

From the perspective of the earlier history of philosophy

From the perspective of the history of the times in which Hobbes lived

From the perspective of Hobbes's 20th-21st century interpreters:

Leo Strauss

C. B. Macpherson

Richard Tuck

Quentin Skinner

We will also read an article that I have written on the relevance of Hobbes's philosophy for understanding the collapse of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Throughout the course, we shall use our various readings as springboards for reflection on political life as we ourselves experience it today.

Schedule

Week 1	Jan 21 Introduction to the life and times of Thomas Hobbes Tuck, <i>Introduction</i> , Ch 1, Hobbes's life <i>Leviathan</i> , Dedication and Introduction	
2	Jan 26-28 <i>Leviathan</i> Part I: Of Man Chapters 1-5 Tuck, Ch 2 Skinner Collingwood Plato	Short papers due Weeks 2-6 Science (49-60) Ch 3 Civil science On the history of philosophy <i>Protagoras</i> (excerpt)
3	Feb 2-4 <i>Leviathan</i> Tuck, Ch 2 Aristotle Skinner	Ch 6 The passions Ch 8 Section on madness (41-46) Ch 10 Power and honor (50-54) Ch 11 Manners Ethics (60-74) <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> and <i>Rhetoric</i> (excerpts) Ch 4 Rhetoric and the construction of morality
4	Feb 9-11 <i>Leviathan</i> Tuck, Ch 2 Bible St Thomas Maimonides	Ch 13 The natural condition of mankind Ch 14 The first and second laws of nature Ch 15 Other laws of nature (89-94, 99-100) Politics (74-88) Exodus and St Paul's Letters (excerpts) On law <i>Guide for the Perplexed</i>
5	Feb 16-18 <i>Leviathan</i> Skinner Bible	Ch 16 Persons and authors Part II: Of Commonwealth Ch 17 Generation of a commonwealth Ch 18 The rights of sovereigns Ch 6 The artificial person of the state Job

6	Feb 23-25		
	<i>Leviathan</i>	Ch 19 Kinds of commonwealth (118-24)	
		Ch 20 Dominion	
		Ch 21 The liberty of subjects	
	Skinner	Ch 7 The proper signification of liberty	
7	Mar 2-4		Midterm paper due March 4
	<i>Leviathan</i>	Ch 24 Nutrition and procreation	
		Ch 26 Civil laws	
		Ch 28 Punishments and rewards	