

Politics V53: 0195.002, Justice, Spring 2007
Spring 2006, Tuesdays 2:00-4:00

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This course is a discussion seminar. The course will focus on political order and distributive justice and the changing ideas on them from Hobbes to Rawls. Readings will be from varied perspectives, but most will be from the major philosophers Hobbes, Hume, and Rawls.

Course assignments are a term paper of no more than 25 pages and two papers of no more than 5 pages each, double-spaced, on any topic suitable for a particular session. The term paper should be written as a research paper as though for publication. It should therefore not merely tell what some author has said but should contribute to the debate, for example by explaining the connection between order and justice. The short papers are intended to help spur class discussion and each paper must therefore be submitted at the time of the session for which it is written. Ideally, many of the short papers would bring the readings and arguments to bear on clear theses or on specific cases or problems, historical and contemporary. You may use the short papers as opportunities to explore themes for the term paper, but you are not required to do that. The first short paper must be done no later than 6 March and the second no later than 17 April.

We may have an extra session at the end for brief presentations of term papers.

Readings are heavy in some weeks. Use your own judgment of whether you can skim some discussions and concentrate more heavily on others. The three main readings are among the greatest books of political philosophy.

REQUIRED BOOKS; all of these should be in PAPERBACK:

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, edited by Edwin Curley. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Russell Hardin, Morality within the Limits of Reason, University of Chicago Press, 1988.

David Hume, A Treatise of Human Nature, Oxford (new edition ed. by Norton and Norton)

David Hume, Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals, Oxford, ed. by Beauchamp

John Rawls, A Theory of Justice, Harvard University Press, 1999 revised edition (the changes from the original 1971 are slight, but the pagination differs)

Although they are not assigned, some might find three other works of interest: Hobbes, De Cive; Hume, The Natural History of Religion and Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

David Hume, Essays Moral, Political, and Literary, ed. Eugene F. Miller, Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Press, 1985.

John Rawls, Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy, Harvard University Press (especially the essay on Hume, but many may wish to read essays on Kant as well)

Reading assignments

I. Jan 16. Modern Political Philosophy

II. Jan 23. Hobbes I

Hobbes, Leviathan, 1-105 (you may skim parts of this, but not those on political order)

Recommended:

Hardin, "Hobbesian Political Order," Political Theory 19 (May 1991): 156-180

III. Jan 30. Hobbes II

Hobbes, Leviathan, 106-165

Curley's intro to Hobbes, Leviathan, viii-xlvi

IV. Feb 6. Hobbes III

Hobbes, Leviathan, 165-244, 489-97, and Chronology, xlvi-lxii

V. Feb 13. From Hobbes to Hume

Hume, "Of the First Principles of Government," "Of the Origin of Government," "Of the Original Contract," "Of Passive Obedience," in Miller: 32-36, 37-41, 465-487, 488-492

Hardin, "From Power to Order, From Hobbes to Hume," Journal of Political Philosophy, 1 (March 1993): 195-207

VI. Feb 20. Hume I: The structure of moral and political problems

Hume, T455-484, 574-591, 614-621 skim T592-602

VII. Feb 27. Hume II:

Hume, EPM 13-20, 38-88 (skim parts), 98-106

Hardin, Morality within the Limits of Reason, xv-xx, 1-73, 126-137

VIII. Mar 6. Hume III: Convention

Hume, read the footnotes T504-513

David Lewis, Convention, chaps. 1-3

Mar 13: SPRING BREAK

IX. Mar 20. Hume IV: Justice and Political Society

Hume T477-569

Recommended:

Hume, EPM 20-38

Rorty, "The Priority of Democracy to Philosophy"

X. Mar 27. From Hume to Rawls

Hardin, *Morality within the Limits of Reason*, chaps 2 and 3

Rawls, John. 1955. "Two Concepts of Rules." Philosophical Review 64 (April): 3-32.

Rawls, John. 1958. "Justice As Fairness." Philosophical Review 67 (April): 164-194. (Both of these papers are available on Jstor)

XI. Apr 3. Rawls I

Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, chaps 1 and 2

XII. Apr 10. Rawls II

Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, chaps 3 and 4

XIII. Apr 17. Rawls III

Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, chaps 5 and 6

XIV. Apr 24: Paper presentations