

Classics of Social and Political Thought II

SOSC 15200, Section 2

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 AM to 10:20 PM

Harper 150

Instructor: Steven Klein

Office Hours: Monday 10:00-11:30 AM, Pick 422A & by appointment

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Welcome to the second portion of Classics of Social and Political Thought. In this seminar, we will examine major works of European political theory spanning the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a time of dramatic social, political, and intellectual change. Most centrally, this period witnessed the effort to ground political authority without appeal to religious sanction; the development of ideas about rights and liberty; the need to justify private property and accumulation; the discovery and early colonization of the Americas; and the modern articulation of the ideal of democratic self-determination. Our readings draw from three seminal thinkers who influentially addressed these issues: Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. We will consider their arguments regarding the nature of political life, their areas of agreement and disagreement, and the broader implications of their thought.

Course Requirements

- **Participation:** This is a discussion-intensive seminar, and each student should come to class prepared to engage with the readings. In addition, you are welcome to come to office hours for further discussion, which will count towards your participation grade.
- **Discussion Questions:** You are required to post to Chalk two discussion questions (3-4 sentences) over the course of the quarter. These are due by **9 PM** the night before the class in which we will discuss those readings. You should also be prepared to further discuss these questions in class.
- **Papers:** Each student is required to write two papers. Topics and writing guidelines will be distributed ahead of time. In addition, you will be required to bring a printed draft of your first paper to our writing seminar, as well as to email it to me beforehand. The first paper (1250-1500 words) is due **Sunday, February 7th by 5 PM**. The final paper (1750-2000 words) is due **Wednesday, March 16th by 5 PM**.

Grades

Participation and Discussion Questions: 30%, First Paper: 30%, Final Paper: 40%

Except in cases of documented illness or emergency, late papers will be deducted one half grade for each day late (i.e., B+ becomes B). You must receive a passing grade on all written work to pass the course.

Required Texts

The following texts are available for purchase at the Seminary Co-Op. You are required to use these specific editions so as to allow for group discussion.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett)

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Cambridge)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Major Political Writings of Jean Jacques Rousseau* (Chicago)

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class, unless you have a medical emergency or compelling personal reason. If you do have such a reason, please contact me as soon as you know about it (before class). After the first unexcused absence, each additional absence will reduce your participation grade by a full letter grade. Students with more than two unexcused absences will be presumed to have withdrawn from the course. **If for any reason you miss a session, you must email me a 350-word reflection on the readings for that day.**

Electronic Devices

You are not permitted to any use electronic devices (laptops, cellphones, etc.) during class.

Plagiarism

Academic honesty requires you to hand in your own original work and to cite all sources you draw on while writing the paper, whether you quote it directly or not. Any breach of this requirement is a very serious matter. Plagiarism will lead to a failing grade for the course, as well as to disciplinary action by the College. Do not hesitate to talk to me if you have any question about the appropriate standards and about what it means to properly cite sources.

Readings

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

LEVIATHAN (1651)

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| Tuesday, January 5 | Frontispiece |
| Thursday, January 7 | Dedicatory Letter; Introduction, Chapters 1-6 |
| Tuesday, January 12 | Chapters 7-12 |
| Thursday, January 14 | Chapters 13-16 |
| Tuesday, January 19 | Chapters 17-21 |
| Thursday, January 21 | Chapters 24-26, 27 (§§1-9), 28 (§§1-13) |
| Tuesday, January 26 | Chapters 29- 31, Review and Conclusion |

John Locke (1632-1704)

SECOND TREATISES OF GOVERNMENT (1689)

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| Thursday, January 28 | Chapters 1-4 |
| Tuesday, February 2 | Chapters 5-6 |

Thursday, February 4 Writing Seminar
*** First paper due Sunday, February 7 by 5pm***
Tuesday, February 9 Chapters 7-9
Thursday, February 11 Chapters 10-15
Tuesday, February 16 Chapters 16-19

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

DISCOURSE ON THE ORIGIN AND FOUNDATIONS OF INEQUALITY AMONG MEN (1755)

Thursday, February 18 Epistle; Preface; Part I; notes 9, 10, 11, 15
Tuesday, February 23 Part II; note 16

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT (1762)

Thursday, February 25 Book I
Tuesday, March 1 Book II
Thursday, March 3 Book III
Tuesday, March 9 Book IV

Final paper due Wednesday, March 16 by 5pm