

## **HUM586-PHI512\_F2018 Hobbes and Milton: The Commonwealth, the Person and the Nature of Language**

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) is considered the greatest English thinker ever likely to be, John Milton (1608-74) the greatest English non-dramatic poet, and theorist of domestic and civil liberty. Both key in the English Revolution, they have continued to exert major international influence. Through analysis of major works and some secondary commentary, we consider their sharp contrasts (on authority, sovereignty, law, epistemology, poetics) and disarming similarities (the Bible, 'new science', superstition, matter, mortalism, rhetoric and logic), with some comparison of contemporaries such as Descartes, Spinoza and Margaret Cavendish.

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