

PHI 516/POL 569
Hobbes
Fall 2020

This seminar will focus on the philosophy and politics of Thomas Hobbes. We will attempt to understand Hobbes's political thought in the context of his larger intellectual enterprise. We will begin with some background on Hobbes's philosophical program, the "Elementa philosophiae" or "Elements of Philosophy" project. After that we will work through Hobbes's account of the human being and his science of politics, guided largely by the presentation in the *Leviathan*, but taking account of the earlier versions of his thought in the *Elements of Law* and the *De cive*.

In the syllabus below I set out the sequence of readings that we will follow over the course of the term. In the week before each session, I will send around a more detailed discussion of the readings, and how I propose that we approach them in class.

Week 1 (9/1) Introduction to Hobbes.

Reading: Hobbes, *Concerning Body*, epistle dedicatory to ... William Earl of Devonshire, Author's epistle to the reader, chaps. 1, 6. (This is available on Blackboard or from the instructor); *Leviathan*, chap. 9.

Optional: The (auto)biographical sketches in Curley, pp. liv-lxxi.

Week 2 (9/8) Beginning *Leviathan*

Reading: *Leviathan*, frontispiece (Curley, p. lxxviii), introduction, chaps. 1-8; 34.2; 46.18.

Optional: *Concerning Body*, chap. 25; *Elements of Law (Human Nature)*, chaps 1-13; *On Man* (in Gert, ed. *Man and Citizen*), chaps. 10-12; *On the Citizen* (in Gert, ed. *Man and Citizen*), "Author's Preface to the Reader" (pp. 94-106).

Week 3 (9/15) The political passions; the seeds of religion; the state of nature.

Reading: *Leviathan*, chaps. 10-13.

Optional: *Elements of Law (Human Nature)*, chap. 14; *On Man*, chaps. 13-14; *On the Citizen*, chap. 1.

Week 4 (9/22) Laws of nature, personation, and the formation of the commonwealth

Reading: *Leviathan*, chaps. 14-17.

Optional: *Elements of Law (Human Nature)*, chaps. 15-19; *On Man*, chap. 15; *On the Citizen*, chaps. 2-5.

Week 5 (9/29) Sovereignty

Reading: *Leviathan*, chaps. 18-25.

Optional: *Elements of Law (De corpore politico)*, chaps. 20-24; *On the Citizen*, chaps. 6-10.

Week 6 (10/6) Law, crime and punishment; the responsibilities of the sovereign

Reading: *Leviathan*, chaps. 26-30.

Optional: *Elements of Law (De corpore politico)*, chaps. 27-29; *On the Citizen*, chaps. 12-14.

(10/13) Fall Break

Week 7 (10/20) The Kingdom of God; What we learn from scriptureReading: *Leviathan*, chaps. 31-37Optional: *On the Citizen*, chaps. 11, 15-17.**Week 8 (10/27)** The Kingdom of God: Salvation and the commonwealthReading: *Leviathan*, chaps. 38-41, 43Optional: *Elements of Law (De corpore politico)*, chaps. 25-26; *On the Citizen*, chapt. 18.**Week 9 (11/3)** Of power ecclesiastical; the Kingdom of DarknessReading: *Leviathan*, chaps. 42, 44-47**Week 10 (11/10)** Kingdom of Darkness (ctd.)Reading: *Leviathan*, chaps. 44-47 (note differences in the Latin edition in Curley)**Week 11 (11/17)** Concluding *Leviathan*Reading: *Leviathan*, "A review and conclusion" (Curley, pp. 489-97); Latin appendix (Curley, pp. 498-548)**Week 12 (11/24)** Concluding reflections

Reading: TBD

The seminar will meet Tuesdays, 9:30AM to 12:30PM (Princeton time), online. Graduate students in the Department of Philosophy are invited to work on Unit papers in connection with the seminar, if they would like. They can also volunteer to give a seminar presentation which can be used to satisfy the Department's requirement that students give three seminar presentations. Graduate students from other departments can take the course for a grade by doing a class presentation and submitting a final term paper of approximately twenty pages on any theme relevant to the course. In addition, anyone who is auditing the class is warmly invited to give a seminar presentation as well.

While I am open to other formats, I am hoping that the student presentations will consist in critical discussions of some item selected from the vast secondary literature on Hobbes, a book, or a chapter or two from a book, or an article or two. The secondary material chosen for discussion should be chosen to relate to the material being discussed during the week in which the presentation is to be given. Appended is a selective bibliography of secondary material, mostly books, but including among them two Cambridge Companions and an Oxford Handbook, which contain bibliographies that include articles and collections of articles as well. I would be happy to meet with any of you (online, of course) to help you figure out what you might want to do for a presentation, and meet with you to discuss your presentation before you are scheduled to give it.

HOBBS: BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRINCIPAL PHILOSOPHICAL AND POLITICAL WORKS

Elements of Law: Human Nature and De Corpore Politico (1640, circulated in ms. and published in 1650)

Anti-White (a response to Thomas White, *De mundo*, an Aristotelian critique of Galileo, written in 1643 but lost and rediscovered in about 1950, published in Latin in 1973, with an English translation in 1976.)

Elementa Philosophiae

De corpore [*Concerning Body*] (1655; Eng. ed. 1656)

De homine [*On Man*] (1658)

De cive [*On the Citizen*] (1642, 1647; Eng. ed. 1651)

Leviathan (1651, followed by a Latin edition in 1668, with very significant additions and changes.)

REQUIRED BOOKS FOR THE SEMINAR (available at Labyrinth books, or by mail from Hackett Publishing Co. or Amazon.com, etc.):

Hobbes, Thomas. 1994. *Leviathan: with selected variants from the Latin edition of 1668*. Ed. Edwin Curley. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Hobbes, Thomas. 1994. *The elements of law, natural and politic: part I, Human nature, part II, De corpore politico; with Three lives*. Ed. J. C. A. Gaskin. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Hobbes, Thomas. 1991. *Man and citizen: Thomas Hobbes's De homine [On Man] and De cive [On the Citizen]*. Ed. Bernard Gert. Indianapolis: Hackett Pub. Co.

PRINCIPAL MODERN EDITIONS:

Molesworth is the last complete edition of Hobbes's work to be published. There are two series, one for the English works, the other for the Latin works. All volumes can be downloaded in PDF from Google Books:

Hobbes, Thomas (1839–1845). *The English Works of Thomas Hobbes*. 11 volumes. Ed. William Molesworth. London: John Bohn.

Hobbes, Thomas (1839–1845). *Thomæ Hobbes malmesburiensis opera philosophica*, 5 volumes. Ed. William Molesworth. London: John Bohn.

There is a new Clarendon edition of Hobbes, published by OUP. It is still in progress. The following are the volumes which have appeared that are relevant to the themes of our seminar:

- *Hobbes, Thomas (1983). *De Cive: the Latin version*. Ed. Howard Warrender. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- *Hobbes, Thomas (1982). *De cive: English version*. Ed. Howard Warrender. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- *Hobbes, Thomas (2012). *Leviathan*. 3 vols. Ed. Noel Malcolm. Oxford, Oxford University Press. [This includes both the English edition of 1651 and the Latin edition of 1668 on facing pages, with English translations. Vol. 1 is the introduction, and vols. 2-3 are the text. It is available in paperback.]
- *Hobbes, Thomas (1994). *The correspondence*. Ed. Noel Malcolm. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

The following volumes are part of a French series of Hobbes texts.

- Hobbes, Thomas (1973), *Critique du De Mundo de Thomas White*. Ed, Jean Jacquot and Harold Whitmore Jones. Paris, Vrin. [This is just the Latin text, without translation. There is a very poor English translation, Hobbes (1976). *Thomas White's De Mundo Examined*. Trans. Harold Whitmore Jones. London, Bradford University Press.]
- Hobbes, Thomas (1999). *De Corpore*. Ed. Karl Schuhmann and Martine Pécharman. Paris, Vrin. [This is just the Latin text of the 1655 edition, without translation.]
- Hobbes, Thomas (2015). *De Homine*. Ed. Jean Terrel et al. Paris: Vrin. [This is the Latin text of 1658 together with a French translation on facing pages.]

INTERNET RESOURCES

All of the original seventeenth-century editions of Hobbes's writings are available for download in PDF from the website *Early English Books Online*, a database available through the Princeton University Library website.

All of the entries in this bibliography preceded by "*" are available online through the Princeton University Library website. (Get a link through the entry in the main catalogue.)

A certain number of Hobbes texts are available on the *Past Masters* database, available through the Princeton University Library website. The "British Philosophy 1600-1900" collection on *Past Masters* includes the whole of the Molesworth, *English Works*, including the *Leviathan*, the *De cive*, and the *De corpore* (under the title "Elements of Philosophy.") The "Hobbes: Correspondence" collection contains the entire contents of the Malcolm edition of the Correspondence in the Clarendon Edition.

In addition, there is an extensive annotated bibliography of Hobbes by Johann Sommerville in the Oxford Bibliographies, an online collection of bibliographies through OUP. Unfortunately, Princeton doesn't have a subscription, though free trials are available. The URL is:

<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195396577/obo-9780195396577-0096.xml>

HOBBS: SELECTED SECONDARY SOURCES

- *Abizadeh, Arash (2018). *Hobbes and the two faces of ethics*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Bobbio, Norberto (1993). *Thomas Hobbes and the natural law tradition*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
- Brandt, Frithiof (1928). *Thomas Hobbes' mechanical conception of nature*. Copenhagen, Levin & Munksgaard.
- *Collins, Jeffrey R. (2005). *The allegiance of Thomas Hobbes*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, : xii, 313 p. 24 cm.
- *Gauthier, David P. (1969). *The logic of Leviathan: the moral and political theory of Thomas Hobbes*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Hampton, Jean (1986). *Hobbes and the social contract tradition*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Herbert, Gary B. (1989). *Thomas Hobbes: the unity of scientific & moral wisdom*. Vancouver, University of British Columbia Press.
- Jesseph, Douglas (1999). *Squaring the circle: the war between Hobbes and Wallis*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
- Kavka, Gregory S. (1986). *Hobbesian moral and political theory*. Princeton, Princeton University Press.
- Leijenhorst, Cornelis Hendrik (2002). *The mechanisation of Aristotelianism: the late Aristotelian setting of Thomas Hobbes' natural philosophy*. Leiden and Boston, Brill.
- *Lloyd, S. A. (1992). *Ideals as interests in Hobbes' Leviathan: the power of mind over matter*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Lloyd, S. A. (2009). *Morality in the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes: cases in the law of nature*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Malcolm, Noel (2002). *Aspects of Hobbes*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- *Martinich, Aloysius (1992). *The two gods of Leviathan: Thomas Hobbes on religion and politics*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Martinich, Aloysius (1999). *Hobbes: a biography*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Martinich, Aloysius and Kinch Hoekstra, Eds. (2016). *The Oxford handbook of Hobbes*. Oxford handbooks. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Mintz, Samuel I. (1962). *The hunting of Leviathan; seventeenth-century reactions to the materialism and moral philosophy of Thomas Hobbes*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Oakeshott, Michael (2000). *Hobbes on civil association*. Indianapolis, Liberty Fund.
- *Parkin, Jon (2007). *Taming the Leviathan: the reception of the political and religious ideas of Thomas Hobbes in England, 1640-1700*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Pettit, Philip (2008). *Made with words: Hobbes on language, mind, and politics*. Princeton, Princeton University Press.

- *Raylor, Timothy (2018). *Philosophy, rhetoric, and Thomas Hobbes*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Schmitt, Carl (1996). *The Leviathan in the state theory of Thomas Hobbes: meaning and failure of a political symbol*. Westport, Conn., Greenwood Press.
- *Skinner, Quentin (1996). *Reason and rhetoric in the philosophy of Hobbes*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Skinner, Quentin (2008). *Hobbes and republican liberty*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Skinner, Quentin (2018). *From humanism to Hobbes: studies in rhetoric and politics*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Sommerville, J. P. (1992). *Thomas Hobbes: political ideas in historical context*. Houndmills, Macmillan.
- *Sorell, Tom, Ed. (2006). *The Cambridge companion to Hobbes*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Springborg, Patricia, Ed. (2007). *The Cambridge companion to Hobbes's Leviathan*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Sreedhar, Susanne (2010). *Hobbes on resistance: defying the Leviathan*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Strauss, Leo (1936). *The political philosophy of Hobbes, its basis and its genesis*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- *Tuck, Richard (1993). *Philosophy and government, 1572-1651*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- *Tuck, Richard (2015). *The sleeping sovereign: the invention of modern democracy*. Cambridge, Cambridge University press.
- Warrender, Howard (1957). *The political philosophy of Hobbes, his theory of obligation*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Watkins, John W. N. (1965). *Hobbes's system of ideas; a study in the political significance of philosophical theories*. London, Hutchinson.
- Wright, George Herbert (2006). *Religion, politics and Thomas Hobbes*. Dordrecht, Springer.

(Entries marked with a star (*)) are available online through the Princeton University Library website.)