

PHI 2807/2546 – The Creation and Destruction of States: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Monsoon 2019, AC02 TR107, Tuesday/Thursday 10:10-11:40

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10 to 12 in AC02 320 and by appointment

About This Course: Topic and Goals

In this course, we will be investigating what philosophers have had to say about states, and in particular their creation (via the social contract) and destruction (via revolution). We will look at historical work from Western philosophy in the 16th through 18th centuries and at contemporary work which builds on this historical work.

Below are the **goals** for this course. Our class sessions and homework are designed to help you learn the following information and skills:

- The basics of Hobbes, Locke, and Kant's approaches to the social contract and revolution
- How to identify a philosopher's argument and summarize it in your own words
- How to generate questions about, extensions of, and objections to the argument
- How to revise your philosophical writing with an eye towards improving it
- How to reflect on, refine, and articulate your own views on the various topics we address

Course Content

All readings are available on the course web site at <https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/1656021>. You should complete the assigned reading for a class session before that class session. Please **bring the readings to class each day**, either printed out or in *easily accessible* electronic form.

Assignments and Grading

There are four kinds of assignments in this class: **reading quizzes**, **500 word papers**, **1,000 word papers**, and the **paper revisions**. Grading rubrics and sample 500 word papers are available on Canvas.

Weekly Reading Quizzes (10% of your grade) are to help you focus on the important parts of the reading and to get instant feedback on whether you have understood the reading. Quizzes are due at 11:59 PM the night before the class session which focuses on the reading. Late quizzes will not be accepted. There are 26 quizzes and your lowest six scores will be ignored.

500 Word papers (30% of your grade) are short papers on a topic from the text we are reading. They summarize a point from the text, then offer a question, an extension, or a critique.

There are six 500 word papers due. The lowest three scores will be ignored. This means you can turn in just three 500 word papers. Late papers will lose one point for each day late, unless some emergency has delayed submission, in which case the late penalty may be waived. Computer issues are not an emergency.

1,000 Word Papers (45% of your grade) are in-depth examinations of a topic from the readings. There are three 1,000 word papers due. Late papers will lose one point for each day late, unless some emergency has delayed submission, in which case the late penalty may be waived. Computer issues are not an emergency.

Paper Revisions (15% of your grade) are revised resubmissions of 500 word or 1,000 papers. Using my feedback, you rewrite one of your papers with an aim towards improving it. There are nine paper revisions due

and the lowest six scores are ignored. This means you can just turn in three revisions. You can turn revisions in any time before December 13, 11:59 PM. Normally they will be graded and returned to you within a week.

Class Participation

Class participation is required. This includes attendance, listening respectfully to me and to your fellow students, and offering thoughtful questions and contributions to the discussion. Using mobile phones or computers for non-academic purposes, browsing the Internet, coming in late, not showing up, or otherwise ignoring people is not respectful.

Participation does not constitute part of your grade, but you are expected to attend class and participate, because in-class discussion is a substantial component of your learning. I will sometimes announce details about scheduling, assignments, grading, and other topics in class, and it is your responsibility to either be present for these announcements or to check with me or a classmate to find out if you missed anything.

Grade Breakdown:

10% - Reading Quizzes (26, lowest six scores ignored)
30% - 500 Word papers (6, lowest three scores ignored)
45% - 1,000 word papers (3)
15% - Paper Revisions (9, lowest six scores ignored)

Class Grade Rubric:

100-97% = A+
<97-94% = A
<94-90% = A-
<90-87% = B+
<87-84% = B
<84-80% = B-

<80-77% = C+
<77-74% = C
<74-70% = C-
<70-67% = D+
<67-64% = D
<64-60% = D-
<60-0% = F

Disabilities

If you have disabilities which require some form of accommodation, contact me ahead of time.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Any time you use **words, phrases, ideas, or anything else** in your writing that you did not think up on your own, you must **cite** your source the best of your ability. Words and phrases from others must be enclosed in quotation marks to show that you did not write them yourself. Failure to cite a source is **plagiarism** and it's not okay. Plagiarism may result in a zero on the assignment or in other point reductions. You should not need to use (or cite) outside sources for this class, but if you do use them, you must cite them. It is perfectly okay to use points made by your classmates in class, *as long as you cite them to the best of your ability*. The one exception is that you do not need to cite me for your writing assignments in this class.

Resources

My website has resources on reading, writing, and researching at danielweltman.com/resources.html. These resources include a glossary for unfamiliar words or phrases and the rubric that I use for grading your writing assignments. I encourage you to examine these resources.

Topic, Reading, and Assignment Schedule

Weeks 1-3 - Hobbes: Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) is an English philosopher who made important contributions to empiricism and ethics but who is best known for his political philosophy. We will be reading from his book *Leviathan*. You can either read the Hackett version published in 1994, edited by Edwin Curley, which is the original text, or the Early Modern Texts version by Jonathan Bennett, which updates Hobbes's language to modern English.

August 27

Leviathan, Introduction (Hobbes's introduction, not the editor's introduction in the Hackett book)

Quiz due August 26, 11:59 PM

August 29

Leviathan, chapters 13, 17, and 18

Quiz due August 28, 11:59 PM

September 3

Leviathan, chapter 19 paragraphs 1-2, chapters 20 and 21

Quiz due September 2, 11:59 PM

September 5

Leviathan, chapter 28

Quiz due September 4, 11:59 PM

September 10

Leviathan, chapter 29

Quiz due September 9, 11:59 PM

September 12

Leviathan, chapter 30

Quiz due September 11, 11:59 PM

Hobbes 500 word paper due September 22, 11:59 PM

Week 4 – Sovereignty and Revolution

September 17

Matthew Noah Smith, "Rethinking Sovereignty, Rethinking Revolution"

Quiz due September 16, 11:59 PM

September 19

Patrick Hoenig, "Totem and Taboo: The Case for a Secession Clause in the Indian Constitution?"

Quiz due September 18, 11:59 PM

Reminder: Hobbes 500 word paper due September 22, 11:59 PM

Sovereignty and Revolution 500 word paper due September 29, 11:59 PM

Hobbes, Sovereignty, and Revolution 1,000 word paper due October 6, 11:59 PM

Weeks 5-7.5 – Locke: John Locke (1632-1704) is another important English empiricist. We're reading his *Second Treatise of Government*. There is a PDF copy on Canvas and the text is also widely available online.

September 24

Second Treatise, chapters 1 through 4

Quiz due September 23, 11:59 PM

September 26

Second Treatise, chapters 5 and 7

Quiz due September 25, 11:59 PM

October 1

Second Treatise, chapters 8 and 9

Quiz due September 30, 11:59 PM

October 3

Second Treatise, chapters 11 through 14

Quiz due October 2, 11:59 PM

Reminder: Hobbes, Sovereignty, and Revolution 1,000 word paper due October 6, 11:59 PM

October 8 and 10: Mid-term Break

October 15

Second Treatise, chapters 16 through 19

Quiz due October 14, 11:59 PM

Locke 500 word paper due October 27, 11:59 PM

Weeks 7.5-9: Lockean Theories of Territory

October 17

Bas Van der Vossen, "Locke on Territorial Rights"

Quiz due October 16, 11:59 PM

October 22

Cara Nine, "A Lockean Theory of Territory"

Quiz due October 21, 11:59 PM

October 24

Hillel Steiner, "May Lockean Doughnuts Have Holes? The Geometry of Territorial Jurisdiction: A Response to Nine" and Cara Nine, "Territory is Not Derived from Property: A Response to Steiner"

Quiz due October 23, 11:59 PM

Reminder: Locke 500 word paper due October 27, 11:59 PM

Lockean Theories of Territory 500 word paper due November 3, 11:59 PM

Locke and Lockean Theories of Territory 1,000 word paper due November 10, 11:59 PM

Week 9-9.5 – Hume: David Hume (1711-1776) is a Scottish empiricist. We'll read two of his essays.

October 29

Hume, "Of the origin of government" and "Of the original contract"

Quiz due October 28, 11:59 PM

Weeks 9.5-11 – Kant: Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) is a Prussian philosopher of some repute. We will be reading his *Metaphysics of Morals*.

October 31

Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right, Introduction to the Doctrine of Right and Part I (Private Right) Chapter I (How to Have Something External as One's Own)

Quiz due October 30, 11:59 PM

Reminder: Lockean Theories of Territory 500 word paper due November 3, 11:59 PM

November 5

Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right, Part I Chapter II Sections I and II

Quiz due November 4, 11:59 PM

November 7

Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right, Part I Chapter II Section III

Quiz due November 6, 11:59 PM

Reminder: Locke and Lockean Theories of Territory 1,000 word paper due November 10, 11:59 PM

November 12

Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right, Part I Chapter III

Quiz due November 11, 11:59 PM

November 14

Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right, Part II (excluding Appendix)

Quiz due November 13, 11:59 PM

Hume or Kant 500 word paper due November 24, 11:59 PM

Weeks 12-13 – Revolution and Intervention

November 19

Sarah Williams Holtman, "Revolution, Contradiction, and Kantian Citizenship"

Quiz due November 18, 11:59 PM

November 21

Katrin Flikschuh, "Reason, Right, and Revolution: Kant and Locke"

Quiz due November 20, 11:59 PM

Reminder: Hume or Kant 500 word paper due November 24, 11:59 PM

November 26

Allen Buchanan, "The Ethics of Revolution and Its Implications for the Ethics of Intervention"

Quiz due November 25, 11:59 PM

November 28

Massimo Renzo, "Helping the Rebels"

Quiz due November 27, 11:59 PM

Revolution and Intervention 500 word paper due December 8, 11:59 PM

Kant, Revolution, and Intervention 1,000 word paper due December 13, 11:59 PM