

Seminar in Political Philosophy: Hobbes and Contemporary Hobbesians Adam Gjesdal

1 Overview

Thomas Hobbes is noted for asking whether our prosaic, instrumentalist reading can lead us to just terms of interaction. He also launched the important project in social and political philosophy of exploring whether people, characterized by foundational disagreements about morality, can live together in a cooperative social order.

This seminar will begin by reading Hobbes' *Leviathan*. Next, we will turn to recent Hobbesian political philosophers who interpret and refine Hobbes. Lastly, we turn to those who seek to carry on Hobbes' project of deriving normative constraints from the theory of rational choice. We will read, among others, works by Gerald Gaus, David Gauthier, Jean Hampton, Gregory Kavka, S.A. Lloyd, Peter Vanderschraaf and Michael Moehler.

2 Assessment

50% Participation, 50% Final Paper

3 Readings

We will spend the first four weeks of class reading and discussing *Leviathan*. We will then spend five weeks on selections from the readings listed under the "Logic" and "Social Contract" sections, and conclude spending five weeks discussing contemporary Hobbesian moral theory.

You are required to purchase three texts: the Curley edition of Hobbes' *Leviathan*, David Gauthier's *Morals by Agreement*, and Michael Moehler's *Minimal Morality*. The remaining readings and will be made available in pdf format.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Curley edition, Hackett)

The Logic of Hobbes' Analysis

- David Gauthier, *The Logic of Leviathan*
- Hampton, *Hobbes and the Social Tradition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986).
- Gregory Kavka, "Hobbes' War of All against All," *Ethics*, vol. 93, No. 2 (Jan., 1983), pp. 291-310.
- Michael Moehler, "Why Hobbes' State of Nature is Best Modeled by an Assurance Game," *Utilitas* vol. 21, No. 3, September 2009: 297-306.
- Peter Vanderschraaf, "War or peace?: A dynamical analysis of anarchy." *Economics and Philosophy* 22, no. 2 (2006): 243.
- Jean Hampton, and Peter Caws. "Hobbesian reflections on glory as a cause of conflict." *The Causes of Quarrel* (1989): 78-96.

- Gregory Kavka, *Hobbesian moral and political theory*. Princeton University Press, 1986.

The Hobbesian Social Contract

- Gerald Gaus, "Hobbes's Challenge to Public Reason Liberalism, '." *Hobbes Today: Insights for the 21st Century* (2012): 155-77.
- Jean Hampton, *Hobbes and the Social Tradition*, ch. 6, "Hobbes' Social Contract."
- Jean Hampton, "The Failure of Hobbes's Social Contract Argument." In Christopher W. Morris, ed. *The Social Contract Theorists* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1999), 41- 58.
- David Gauthier, "Hobbes's Social Contract." In Christopher W. Morris, ed. *The Social Contract Theorists* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1999), 59-72.
- Sharon Lloyd, *Morality in the Philosophy of Thomas Hobbes: Cases in the Law of Nature*. Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Hobbesian Moral Theory

- David Gauthier, *Morals by Agreement* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986)
- Michael Moehler, *Minimal Morality A Multilevel Social Contract Theory* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)
- Peter Vanderschraaf, "Justice as mutual advantage and the vulnerable." *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* 10, no. 2 (2011): 119-147.
- David Gauthier, "Why Contractarianism?" In Peter Vallentyne, ed. *Contractarianism and Rational Choice* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991): 15-30.
- Jean Hampton, "Two Faces of Contractarian Thought." In Peter Vallentyne, ed. *Contractarianism and Rational Choice* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991): 31- 55.
- Robert Sugden, "Contractarianism as a Broad Church." *RMM (Rationality, Morality and Markets)*, vol. 4, 2013: 61-66.
- Jean Hampton, "Hobbes and Ethical Naturalism," *Philosophical Perspectives*, Vol. 6, Ethics (1992), pp. 333-353.