

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
GRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE 2017**

Philosophy 9038B: Grotius and Hobbes

**Winter Term 2017
Wednesdays 11:30-2:30
Stvh 1145**

**Instructor: Dennis Klimchuk
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It is commonly said that modern political philosophy begins with Hobbes. In fact it begins with Grotius. And so will we, spending the first half of this course on his *Rights of War and Peace* (1625) and the second half on Hobbes's *Leviathan* (1651). We will focus on questions on the nature of sovereignty and of law. Among our themes will be the rule of law and a central distinction on which that ideal relies, namely that between an office and its holder. Other topics will include natural law, the social contract, property, equity and punishment.

TEXTS

We will read only the primary texts. We will use Whewell's abridged ed. of *The Rights of War and Peace* (originally Cambridge University Press, now reprinted by The Lawbook Exchange). I have a pdf version of this edition downloaded from Google Books that I will make available on the webpage. I will also order copies for the bookstore. We will use the Curley (ed.) edition of *Leviathan* (Hackett).

REQUIREMENTS

There will be two options for the work in this course:

1. Four short papers (5pp), commenting on issues in the readings, topics first approved by me (informally). Two must be on Grotius and two on Hobbes. Each will be due two weeks after the class for which the reading on which you are commenting was discussed. For these papers you are welcome but not required to do research into the relevant scholarly literature.
2. A term paper on a topic of your choice (100%), about 15 pp. For a term paper you will be expected to look into the relevant scholarly literature.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

Incompletes are granted at the <i>exclusive</i> discretion of the Graduate Program Chair, and only on the basis of documented medical or compassionate grounds. If, during the course, you envisage any difficulty completing all the required work by the completion deadline, consult immediately with the instructor <i>and</i> the Graduate Program Chair.
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PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is unacknowledged copying or paraphrasing of words or ideas of another person. Whenever students take an idea or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.

Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy pp. 29-30 in the 2001 Western Academic Calendar).

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.