

PH362-15 Hobbes and Rousseau

21/22

Department

Philosophy

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

David James

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

PH362-15 Hobbes and Rousseau

Module aims

The module aims to examine and critically assess many of the central ideas found in Hobbes's and Rousseau's political philosophy. The arguments and ideas of these philosophers will be compared with each other and discussed in their own right. Particular issues to be discussed will include Hobbes's and Rousseau's differing views concerning the natural condition of humankind, human nature, freedom, morality and the character and constitution of a legitimate political order. The emphasis will be on a close reading of key texts and discussion of the issues raised by these texts.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. Hobbes on human psychology, motivation and freedom
2. The function of the state of nature in Hobbes's political philosophy
3. Morality and the laws of nature

4. The source, nature and limits of political obligation
5. Natural freedom: Rousseau on independence
6. Inequality and domination
7. The aims of the Social Contract
8. The general will and popular sovereignty
9. The role of pity in Rousseau's moral psychology

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- To have a systematic understanding and knowledge of many of the key ideas and arguments found in Hobbes's and Rousseau's major writings in the area of political philosophy, and the issues they raise in connection with the nature of the modern state and the individual's place within it. The students should also be able to understand how Hobbes's and Rousseau's positions on key issues differ and to be able offer an independent assessment of them.
- To communicate clearly and substantively in speech and in writing on the issues raised by their close reading and critical analysis of the relevant texts. They should be able to engage with these texts in a way that appreciates their potential relevance to present-day concerns while being sensitive to the historical context in which they were written. The students should also be able to evaluate critically the relevant secondary literature.

Indicative reading list

- Bertram, Christopher, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Rousseau and the Social Contract* (London: Routledge, 2004)
- Cohen, Joshua, *Rousseau: A Free Community of Equals* (Oxford University Press, 2010)
- Dent, Nicolas, *Rousseau* (London: Routledge, 2005)
- Gauthier, David, *The Logic of Leviathan: The Moral and Political Theory of Thomas Hobbes* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1969)
- Hobbes, Thomas, *On the Citizen*, eds. Richard Tuck and Michael Silverthorne (Cambridge University Press, 1998)
- *Leviathan*, ed. Richard Tuck (Cambridge University Press, 1991)
- James, David, *Rousseau and German Idealism: Freedom, Dependence and Necessity* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), Chapter 1
- 'Rousseau on Needs, Language and Pity: The Limits of "Public Reason"', *European Journal of Political Theory* 10(3) (2011)
- Kavka, Gregory, *Hobbesian Moral and Political Theory* (Princeton University Press, 1986)
- Lloyd, S. A., *Morality in the Philosophy of Thomas Hobbes: Cases in the Law of Nature* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)
- Neuhouser, Frederick, *Rousseau's Critique of Inequality: Reconstructing the Second Discourse* (Cambridge University Press, 2014)
- *Rousseau's Theodicy of Self-Love: Evil, Rationality, and the Drive for Recognition* (Oxford University Press, 2008)
- 'Freedom, Dependence, and the General Will', *The Philosophical Review* 102(3) (1993)
- O'Hagan, Timothy, *Rousseau* (London: Routledge, 2003)

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, The Discourses and other early political writings, ed. and trans. Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge University Press, 1997)

-- The Social Contract and other later political writings, ed. and trans. Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge University Press, 1997)

-- Emile or on Education, trans. Allan Bloom (New York: Basic Books, 1979)

Simpson, Matthew, Rousseau's Theory of Freedom (London: Continuum, 2006)

Skinner, Quentin, Hobbes and Republican Liberty (Cambridge University Press, 2008)

Springborg, Patricia, The Cambridge Companion to Hobbes's Leviathan (Cambridge University Press, 2002)

Sreedhar, Susanne, Hobbes on Resistance: Defying the Leviathan (Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Warrender, Howard, The Political Philosophy of Thomas Hobbes: His Theory of Obligation (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1957)

Subject specific skills

TBC

Transferable skills

TBC

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	124 hours (83%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A4

	Weighting	Study time
1750 word essay 1	50%	
1750 word essay 2	50%	

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on essays will be provided on the feedback form for the essay, addressing standard areas of evaluation and individual content.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UPHA-V700 Undergraduate Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 3 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 3 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 4 of UPHA-V701 Undergraduate Philosophy (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPHA-V702 Undergraduate Philosophy (with Work Placement)
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)

This module is Core option list A for:

- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- Year 3 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Core option list B for:

- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy

- Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 4 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Option list A for:

- UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 2 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 3 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
- UMAA-GV18 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 2 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 3 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year

This module is Option list E for:

- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law