

HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT
7 TUTES ON MODERN AND EARLY MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Tutorial Arrangements

The purpose of these tutorials is to sharpen students' understanding of core concepts in the European philosophical tradition, and to encourage them to discuss relevant topics of historical or philosophical import.

Essays up to 3,000 words in length are to be submitted electronically to nicholas.vrousalis@lmh.ox.ac.uk at least 24 hours prior to the tutorial.

The weekly essay should discuss one question from the week's reading list, and attempt to answer *that question alone*.

Reading lists for these tutorials are available on the website of the Department of Politics website here: http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/teaching/ug/reading_lists/215/215_0809.pdf and here: http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/teaching/ug/reading_lists/216/216_0809.pdf. *Neither* the former lists, *nor* the one that follows, are *exhaustive* of relevant material students can use when preparing essays.

All tutorials are held in teaching rooms at Lady Margaret Hall.

Some background readings:

Dunn, John (1995), *The History of Political Theory and Other Essays*, Cambridge.

Excellent introductory essays, analytically incisive and historically informed.

Hampshire-Monk, Iain (1992), *A History of Modern Political Thought*, Blackwell

Well-rounded introductory discussion of some of the major thinkers in this course.

Skinner, Quentin (2002), *Visions of Politics*, Cambridge

Influential account of a well-known approach to the reading of political thought, by one of its historically-minded practitioners.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

A good resource students should consult for background and for specialised topics.

Individual Topics¹

Week 2: Hobbes

Essay Question: Why does Hobbes's employment of natural rights point him in an absolutist direction?

Leviathan, chapters 12-15, 17-31.*

Skinner (2008), *Hobbes and Republican Liberty*, chapter 5.*

Gauthier (1999), 'Why ought one obey God? Reflections on Locke and Hobbes', in C.W. Norris (ed.), *The Social Contract Theorists*, Rowman and Littlefield.

Foisneau (2004), 'Hobbes' Theory of Justice', in Sorell & Foisneau (eds.), *Leviathan after 350 years*, Oxford.

¹ * signifies necessary readings

Week 3: Locke

How subversive are Locke's views of resistance to government?

Second Treatise on Government.*

Ashcraft (1994), 'Locke's Political Philosophy', in Chappell (ed.) *Cambridge Companion to Locke*, Cambridge.*

MacPherson (1962), *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism*, Oxford, part V, sections 1-4.

Gauthier (1999), 'Why ought one obey God?'

Week 4: Montesquieu

Does Montesquieu succeed in applying his belief in universal justice to the study of different forms of government?

The Spirit of the Laws, books I-V, VIII, XI, XII.*

Plamenatz (1963), *Man and Society*, Longmans, chapter 7.*

Althusser (2007), *Politics and History*, Verso.

Week 5: Hume

What are Hume's reasons for repudiating the doctrine of the social contract?

Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals, I-IX, and 'Of the Original Contract', in his *Essays Moral, Political and Literary*.*

Stroud (1977), *Hume*, Blackwell, chapter IX.*

Plamenatz, (1963), chapter 8.

Week 6: Rousseau

Rousseau's *Social Contract* demonstrates in the clearest possible way that popular sovereignty and liberty are incompatible. Discuss.

The Social Contract and *Discourse on Inequality* (second discourse).*

Bertram (2003), *Rousseau and the Social Contract*, Routledge, chapters 2-6.*

Keohane (1980), *Philosophy and the State in France*, Princeton.

Shklar (1985), *Men and Citizens*, chapter 5.

Week 7: Mill

Mill's *On Liberty* offers a blanket pronouncement against all forms of state paternalism. Discuss.

On Liberty.*

Ryan (1974), *J.S. Mill*, Routledge, chapter 5.*

Ten (1980), *Mill on Liberty*, Clarendon, chapter 4.

Gray (1996), *Mill's On Liberty: A Defence*, Routledge.

Week 8: Marx

What is the role of class in Marx's materialist theory of history?

German Ideology (extracts), *Communist Manifesto*, Preface to *A Critique of Political Economy*, 'Letter to Annenkov'.*

The relevant extracts are all collected in McLellan's (2000) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, Oxford.

Cohen (1978), *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence*, chapters VI, VII and X.*

Lichtheim (1982), *Marxism: A Historical and Critical Study*, part IV, chapter 2.

Roemer, J. (1988) *Free to Lose: An Introduction to Marxist Economic Philosophy*, Harvard, chapter 8.