

Political Philosophy from Grotius to Kant

Tuesdays 10-11:50, Location: TBA

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Course Summary

This course will discuss major figures in the history of legal and political philosophy in the 17th and 18th centuries, with a focus on the works of Hugo Grotius, John Locke and Immanuel Kant. Among the topics addressed will be the acquisition of property, the role of consent in the creation and transfer of rights, the relation of the individual to the state and the legitimacy of war as a legal institution.

Grading & Texts

The grade for the course will be based on a final paper of approximately 8000 words. Four short response papers, due the day before discussion of the reading to which they respond, are also required. The readings will be distributed digitally.

Standard Policies

- Students with documented disabilities should contact the Yale University Resource Office on Disabilities by email to the director, Judy York (judith.york@yale.edu), to request accommodation for examinations or other course-related needs. The Resource Office on Disabilities will work directly with the Registrar's Office on accommodations.
- Academic integrity is a core institutional value at Yale. It means, among other things, truth in presentation, diligence and precision in citing works and ideas we have used, and acknowledging our collaborations with others. In view of our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity, the Graduate School Code of Conduct specifically prohibits the following forms of behavior: cheating on examinations, problem sets and all other forms of assessment; falsification and/or fabrication of data; plagiarism, that is, the failure in a dissertation, essay or other written exercise to acknowledge ideas, research, or language taken from others; and multiple submission of the same work without obtaining explicit written permission from both instructors before the material is submitted. Students found guilty of violations of academic integrity are subject to one or more of the following penalties: written reprimand, probation, suspension (noted on a student's transcript) or dismissal (noted on a student's transcript).

Calendar

1/21 Grotius-Overview, TOC of BKs I-III; Definition of War, BK I, Ch I, Sec 1-2; Private War, BK I, Ch 3, Sec 1-2; Public War, BK I, Ch 3, Sec 4

1/28 Grotius-Right to War (Defense of Self and Property), BK II, Ch 1; Unjust Causes of War, BK II, Ch 22

2/4 Grotius-Sociability and Right, Prolegomena and BK I, Ch I, Sec 3-; Richard Tuck, Chapter 3 of *Rights of War and Peace*

2/11 Grotius-Right in War, BK III, Ch 1, Sec 1-4; BK III, Ch 3, Sec 1-5, Sec 11-12; BK III, Ch 4

2/18 Interlude: Pufendorf-(collected on Classes *v2 server as Pufendorf I, II, and III) (Law of Nature and Nations, pp. 1-9, 18-31, 56, 66-71, 87-112, 207-210, 330-336, 390-401, 825-826, 949-966, 1160-1162)

2/25 Locke-Personal Identity (Essay II.xxvii) & the Demonstrability of Morality (Essay IV.iii.18-20 & additional isolated sections)

3/4 Locke-Freedom of action and will (Essay II.xxi)

3/11 & 3/18 No Class-Spring Break

3/25 Locke-Second Treatise (focussing on chs 1-3, 7-9, 11, 16-19)

4/1 Locke-Second Treatise (focussing on chs 4-6, 15)

4/8 Kant-Metaphysics of Morals (Intro 6:214-620), Doctrine of Right (6:229-242)

4/15 Kant-Doctrine of Right (6:245-308)

4/22 Kant-Doctrine of Right (6:311-372)