

790:372: Western Tradition II: Hobbes to Mill
Spring 2021
Online Hybrid Course

Professor Danielle Hanley, Department of Political Science
danielle.hanley@rutgers.edu
Office Hours (via Zoom) Tuesdays 1 pm – 3 pm and by appointment

Course Description: This course is built around an inquiry into the question, what is modernity? What does it mean to be ‘modern’? What are the characteristics that mark something as modern? Modernity names, among other things, a set of intellectual tendencies. These include critical reflection on established norms and practices resulting in a reworking or a rejection of the pre-modern cosmos and a celebration of scientific rationality, individualism, and secularism. This course will explore theoretical texts that have been used to engage with these ideas. We will examine some recurring dilemmas of political modernity, and the attempts of canonical figures Thomas Hobbes and John Locke to engage with these questions and concerns. In each case, we will ask how each thinker categorizes and contends with the question of modernity. We will also explore extensions, applications, and challenges to these ideas, asking, what are the limitations of modernity? What are the challenges that accompany this condition?

Assigned texts: The books for this course is listed below, with publisher in parentheses. This text is available at Rutgers/Barnes and Noble, but I encourage you to find the best deals wherever you can. The underlined texts must be purchased. Please purchase the specific edition indicated on the syllabus—the best way to do so is to search for the listed ISBN. Additional readings will be uploaded or linked on Sakai, and are marked with an asterisk (*) on the syllabus.

Climate Leviathan by Joel Wainwright and Geoff Mann ISBN: 978-1786634450
Contract and Domination by Carole Pateman and Charles Mills ISBN: 978-0745640044

***If you anticipate any trouble obtaining the course text (financial or otherwise), please reach out to Professor Hanley, who can help arrange an alternative form of delivery.

Technology Requirements for 790:370: To successfully complete this course, students must have internet access or capability to log-in to zoom through their phone (through the call-in number) on Tuesdays from 4 pm to 5 pm (EST) throughout the semester. Students must also have sufficient internet access to post weekly forum posts, respond to their fellow students’ posts, and upload class assignments to the course site. If any student is concerned about their internet access or access to the course materials, please reach out to Professor Hanley directly. Given the Covid-19 pandemic, Professor Hanley will help students navigate their specific technological challenges, and promises flexibility with regard to the current global situation.

***In addition, please visit [Rutgers Student Tech Guide \(https://it.rutgers.edu/technology-guide/students/\)](https://it.rutgers.edu/technology-guide/students/) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate

technology for financial reasons, you can email the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance.

Grading:

- Two short papers: 30% (15% each)
- Leading discussion and reading questions: 10%
- Weekly discussion forum posts and responses: 25%
- Class citizenship (attendance and participation in activities): 25%
- Final project: 10%

Course Meetings and Mechanics:

This is a hybrid course. This means that it has both synchronous and asynchronous elements. Please read through the following bullet points carefully:

- Our class will use **SAKAI** as our Learning Management System.
- Class meetings will occur via **Zoom** at the following recurring link:
<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/96080152214?pwd=S0FobTZOVU9DNTRrZEJXV0YvT3dodz09> (Meeting ID: 960 8015 2214, Password: 378075)
- Professor Hanley will use the ‘**Announcements**’ feature of SAKAI to send relevant information, reading, and updates for the course. Please make sure your SAKAI is set to send to your Rutgers email, and please check your Rutgers email daily for potential communication.
- Class will meet Tuesdays from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm Eastern for group discussion. Attendance is mandatory. Please reach out to Professor Hanley directly if you have a scheduling conflict.
- Prior to class, you should read the assigned text(s) and watch the assigned video(s), if any. You should come prepared to discuss the relevant text(s) and video(s) with your classmates.
- Each student will be responsible for leading the class discussion one time during the semester. For this assignment, you present 2-3 reading questions to the class to begin the discussion. Questions are due to Professor Hanley by noon on the date you present.
- Students are responsible for bi-weekly Discussion Forum posts. Posts are due Thursdays as noted on the syllabus by 11:59 PM (so, a few days after our weekly class). Posts should be between 250-300 words.
- On weeks where we do not have discussion posts, students are also responsible for 3 forum responses. Responses are due Thursdays by 11:59 PM on weeks that we do not have discussion posts. Responses should be between 50-100 words, and should use the week’s reading to respond to the previous week’s discussion.
- Weeks that have papers due **do not** have discussion posts or responses. Instead, revised paper drafts are due that following Thursday, when the discussion post and/or responses are typically due.

Summary of Assignments and Coursework

- EVERY TUESDAY: read course text and submit questions if it is your LD week
- EVERY THURSDAY: complete discussion post or 3 responses

-MULTIPLE POINTS OVER THE SEMESTER, complete paper draft for writing activity, and turn in final draft of paper following revisions.

Course policies and information:

- Class citizenship is made up of attendance and participation, which is mandatory. More than two absences will begin to affect your class citizenship grade. Please be in touch with the professor if circumstances arise that will result in more than two absences.
- Submission of all assignments is required to pass the course.
- Please note the University's policy on disability accommodations. I will gladly make accommodations for any student who needs them, though students must work with the Office of Disability Services (dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu). Their website is at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>
- Please note the University's policy on academic integrity and plagiarism: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

I especially recommend the resources under “For Students” in the upper right corner of the page. I encourage you to discuss the course readings and the issues that they raise with your classmates. But all work turned in with your name on it must be entirely your own. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with, and abiding by, the University's academic integrity policy. (See also <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-tutorial/>.) Violations of academic integrity will be handled personally by the professor and prosecuted through the Office of Student Conduct.

- Please note the University's religious observance policy: <https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/religious-holiday-policy>

You should consider yourself excused when class falls on a religious holiday that you observe. You should inform the professor in advance, and you must make up any class notes or assignments that you miss.

- Announcements and course information will be posted to the course Sakai site and at times sent via email, through Sakai, to the class email list. The system automatically sends email to your official Rutgers address. If you don't know this email address, please find out and be sure to check it regularly.

*****A NOTE ABOUT COVID-19 AND Spring 2021*****

I just want to acknowledge that this is not a normal semester—we are learning online and all dealing with different challenges in the time of Covid-19. This is an unusual semester for us all, and so all I ask is that you do your best, and that you communicate to me if any life issues come up for you or anyone in your care, so that I can do my best to help and accommodate you, and help you finish this course successfully. This includes illness, mental health, or other burdens that might arise in the course of this pandemic—I am not asking you to disclose anything, but

instead to let me know that something's up, so that we can make a plan to finish the course together. I will also do my best to be flexible and understanding, while attempting to create an engaging learning environment on your computer screen. Also, all pets are always invited to our synchronous meetings.

Schedule of readings and lectures:

Introduction: What is Modernity?

Week 1

Jan 19: First Meeting, go over syllabus and course expectations

Jan 21:

Submit: Discussion Post 1 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

Week 2

Jan 26:

Read: Jane Bennett, "Modernity and its Critics"*

William Connolly, *Modernity and Political Theory*, Introduction*

Jan 28:

Submit: 3 Responses to Discussion Post 1 in 'Forums' using Bennett or Connolly

Critical Text Exploration: Hobbes' *Leviathan*

Week 3

Feb 2:

Read: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* Book 1 and Book 2*

Feb 4:

Submit: Discussion Post 2 in 'Forums'

Week 4

Feb 9:

Read: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* Book 3 and Book 4 (excerpts)*

Feb 11:

Submit: Responses to Discussion Post 2 in 'Forums' using Hobbes

Applying Hobbes to Contemporary Issues

Week 5

Feb 16:

Read: Wainwright and Mann, *Climate Leviathan*

Marx, excerpts

Feb 18:

Submit: Discussion Post 3 in 'Forums'

Week 6

Feb 23:

Read: Wainwright and Mann, *Climate Leviathan*

Feb 25:

Submit: Responses to Discussion Post 3 in 'Forums' using CL

Short Paper 1 Assignment Distributed

Week 7

Mar 2:

Read: Wainwright and Mann, *Climate Leviathan*

Mar 4:

Submit: Discussion Post 4 in 'Forums'

Week 8

Mar 9:

Response Paper Roundtable (no reading, bring paper drafts to class)

Mar 11:

Submit: Short Paper 1

Week 9

Mar 16

SPRING BREAK – no reading or assignments

Critical Text Exploration: Locke's *Second Treatise*

Week 10

Mar 23:

Read: John Locke, *Second Treatise*

Mar 25:

Submit: Discussion Post 5 in 'Forums'

Week 11

Mar 30:

Read: John Locke, *Second Treatise*

April 1:

Submit: Responses to Discussion Post 5 in 'Forums' using Locke

Critiquing Locke's Treatise

Week 12

April 6:

Read: Pateman and Mills, *Contract and Domination*

April 8:

Submit: Discussion Post 6 in 'Forums'

Week 13

April 13:

Read: Pateman and Mills, *Contract and Domination*

April 15:

Submit: Responses to Discussion Post 6 in 'Forums' using Pateman and Mills

Week 14

April 20:

Response Paper Roundtable

April 22:

Submit: Short Paper 2

Week 15

April 27:

Final Brainstorming Session and Course Wrap-up

Final Project due to Professor Hanley via email or link by May 6 at 11:59 PM