Government 2077: Thomas Hobbes

Spring Term 2011

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Office hours: By appointment

Course Requirements: one paper of 15-20 pages, due May 14

Where necessary, the readings for each week will be made available at the previous meeting; let me know as soon as possible if you have to miss a session. I may vary the readings listed below. I assume that everyone possesses at least a copy of Leviathan; the best editions are CUP, Penguin or Hackett. Versions of most texts are available online: the English Works in the Molesworth edition (the nineteenth-century collected edition, still the only edition which is close to complete) are available on Pastmasters and the Liberty Fund sites, and the Latin and English Works on the Making of the Modern World and the Making of Modern Law sites. Noel Malcolm’s edition of the correspondence is on the Pastmasters site. The Toennies edition of The Elements of Law (much the best) is available on the Making of Modern Law site. Copies of all seventeenth-century editions are on Early English Books Online (EEBO).

1. Introduction

Thursday 27 January

2. Tacitus and Thucydides

Thursday 3 February


3. Natural Science

Thursday 10 February

“Notes en anglais sur une rédaction ancienne de quelques chapitres du De Corpore”, Critique du

4. Moral Philosophy

Thursday 17 February

A Briefe of the Art of Rhetorique (London 1637) Books I and II; Part I of Elements of Law; letter to Charles Cavendish 22 August 1638.

5. Early Political Theory I

Thursday 24 February

Part II of Elements of Law.

6. Early Political Theory II

Thursday 3 March

De Cive Books I and II.

7. Religion

Thursday 10 March


8. Free Will

Thursday 24 March


9. Leviathan (1)

Thursday 31 March
Leviathan Parts I and II; letters from Robert Payne to Gilbert Sheldon.

10. Leviathan (2)

Thursday 7 April

Leviathan Parts III and IV; Appendix to Latin Leviathan

11. Behemoth

Thursday 14 April

Behemoth


Thursday 21 April

A Dialogue; An Historical Narration Concerning Heresy, and the Punishment Thereof (English Works IV pp 285-408.)