

Topics in Political Thought: Natural Rights and the Origins of Modern Politics

Yeshiva College

Fall 2023

Prof. Neil Rogachevsky

neil.rogachevsky@yu.edu

texts. A take home final exam will ask for comparisons between thinkers covered and major themes addressed in the course.

Attendance

Active attendance and participation is essential for the functioning of the course and learning experience. All absences are to be cleared in advance with the instructors. Any more than 2 unexcused absences will result in a docked attendance grade.

Grading

20%: Class Attendance and Participation

40%: Short Papers

40%: Take Home Final Exam

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who are enrolled in this course and who will be requesting documented disability-related accommodations should make an appointment with the Office of Disability

Services, (646) 592-4280, akelsen@yu.edu. 1 Tm196 0.388 0.757 RG{anm0.00000912 0 612 792 reW*ñBTF1 1W*6

Week 4 (Sept. 20 via Zoom): Thomas Hobbes III
Leviathan, Chapters 14–21

Week 5 (Sept. 27 via Zoom): Thomas Hobbes IV
Leviathan, Chapters 22, 27

Week 6 (Oct. 11) Thomas Hobbes V
Leviathan, Chapters 29, 31, 32–37

Week 7 (Oct. 16–18) John Locke I
First Treatise of Government, **First Essay Due**

Week 8 (Oct. 23–25) John Locke II
Second Treatise of Government, Chapters 1–6

Week 9 (Oct. 30–Nov. 1) John Locke III
Second Treatise of Government, Chapters 6–14

Week 10 (Nov. 6–8) John Locke IV, Introduction to Rousseau
Second Treatise of Government, Chapters 15–20, *First Discourse*, Frontispiece, Preface, Introduction

Week 11 (Nov. 13–15) Jean-Jacques Rousseau I
First Discourse **Second Essay Due**

Week 12 (Nov. 20–22) Jean-Jacques Rousseau II
Second Discourse, Part I

Week 13 (Nov. 27–29) Jean-Jacques Rousseau III
Second Discourse, Part II

Week 14 (Dec. 4–6): Rousseau IV
Social Contract, Part I

Week 15 (Dec. 11–13): Rousseau V
Social Contract, Part II

Week 16 (Dec. 18)