

Political Science 3025 3.0
A Century of Revolution

Winter 2008

Second Essay Assignment
(30% of Final Grade)

Write a short essay on one of the topics below.

This assignment is intended to evaluate your abilities in analysis, synthesis, and the articulation of ideas. No additional research beyond the course readings is required, **but be sure to refer directly to the texts in support of your arguments.**

Format: 1400-2000 words (7-9 pages), single-sided, double-spaced, with 1" to 1-1/2" margins to allow for comments. Any standard format may be used in referencing citations. No citation is required for the information offered in lectures. With respect to all other issues of acknowledging sources, and academic integrity generally, consult the departmental guidelines. (If uncertain about when and how to provide citations, **ask!**)
Violations of academic integrity will be fully prosecuted.

Due date: **April 1, 2008** (You may have an extension of ONE WEEK, for any reason, if you provide a written request by the due date.)

Topics:

1. Compare and contrast Hobbes's ideas with those expressed by Hunton, Ireton, and Filmer with respect to the source and basis of the legitimate political power exercised by the sovereign. How, in particular, do the ideas of each of the other three compare to those of Hobbes on the subject of consent?

2. Hobbes carefully constructs logical arguments leading to crucial conclusions, providing a highly original approach to some of the central themes of modern political theory. These themes include: the power of the sovereign vs. the right to resist tyranny; the relationship between government and the law; the existence of natural rights and natural law; the idea of monarchy vs. the idea of a mixed constitution. Choose one of these themes and analyse the argument Hobbes constructs with respect to it. In your essay, trace the way he develops his ideas on this theme from basic definitions to the conclusion he wants to reach.

3. Compare and contrast the ideas put forward by Hobbes and Winstanley with respect to human nature, the sources and character of human society, and fundamental social values. Particularly discuss the relationship between politics and human nature as it figures in each author's thought.