

Health, Development, and Human Rights

Skepticism About Global Justice

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently to these issues in the next class meeting.

Readings

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters XI, XIII, and XIV.

Questions

1. How does Thomas Hobbes understand the motivation of people? That is, what does Hobbes believe generally motivates people to act in the ways that they do? What reasons might he have for believing this?
2. What is the state of nature, or the natural condition of mankind, that Hobbes describes? Why does he believe it is so terrible?
3. What is the right of nature? What are the first two laws of nature? How might this right and these laws influence Hobbes' understanding of global justice and international affairs?