

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Human Motivation

Instructions

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

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 position on an issue, rather than another.

Reading

Hobbes, T. (2006, July). [Chapters 6, 10, 11]. In J. Bennet (Ed. & Trans.), *Leviathan, part 1: Man* (pp. 21–27, 38–48). Early Modern Texts. <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hobbes1651part1.pdf> (Original work from 1651/1668)

Questions

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. Chapter 6 is built around Thomas Hobbes' idea that every aspect of human experience is ultimately about different sorts of motion.
How exactly does Hobbes do this? That is, how is every aspect of human experience considered by Hobbes reducible back to motion?
(To help, the text capitalizing many of these aspect of human experience, like DESIRE (p. 22), AVERSION (p. 22), LOVE (p. 22), HATE (p. 22), JOY (p. 23), ANGER (p. 24), DELIBERATION (p. 26), and even HAPPINESS (p. 27). So how are each of these, according to Hobbes, ultimately about motion?)
On this account of motion, what is the nature of morality, good and evil, right and wrong?
2. Hobbes devotes chapter 8 to power and how this alone explains a variety of other important concepts.
How does Hobbes define power (p. 38)? How might this be related to his discussion of motion from chapter 6?
What is Hobbes' understanding of each of the following concepts, and how is each ultimately about power:
 - Worth (p. 39),
 - Dignity (p. 39),
 - Honour (p. 39), and
 - Worthiness (p. 28).
3. In chapter 11, Hobbes brings together a lot of his ideas about happiness, power, and human motivation while also applying these to how people interact with each other.
According to Hobbes, what is the "general inclination of all mankind" (p. 44)? How does that general inclination lead us to compete with each other? How does it also lead us to cooperate with each other?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

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 about these issues at our next class meeting.