

PHIL 070B, Section: 80, “Modern Philosophy”

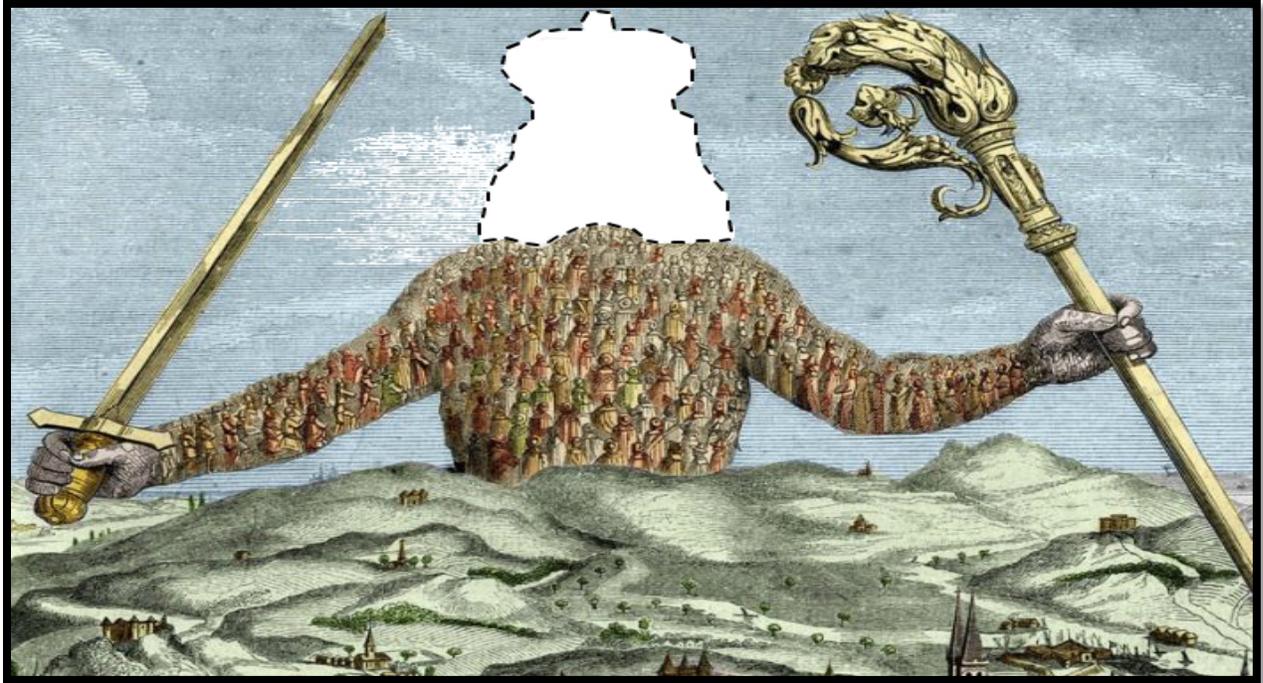
Topic: Modern Political Philosophy

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Format: Online (Asynchronous)

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Course Description

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were marked by great political upheaval. This was the era of the Thirty Years War in central Europe, the English Civil War, the Glorious Revolution, the French Revolution and the American Revolutionary War. In response, the philosophers of the period intensely debated the nature of sovereignty, or political authority. They examined questions such as: What is the purpose of sovereignty? What are the proper limits of the sovereign? Are the rights of the citizens (e.g. freedom of speech, property rights, etc.) absolute or conditional? What is the relationship between the state, citizens and foreigners? Additionally, modern philosophers sought to address issues of inequalities and the just distribution of goods and services. As such, the modern era saw the rise of liberal feminism, critiques of colonialism and slavery, and debates over the justifiability of free market ideology (or what we may refer to as capitalism). In this class, we will examine these issues, while also evaluating the importance and relevance of the early modern political project for those of us living at the start of the 21st century.

Philosophy 70B satisfies GE Area C2: Humanities