

Second Paper Topics

Write a paper answering one of the sets of questions below. Your paper should be no longer than 1800 words or about five to six pages. Please upload an electronic copy to the dropbox on Sakai *and also* put a paper copy in my box in 208 Pearsons by 4 pm on Friday, April 4. Good luck!

1. Compare and contrast Hobbes and Locke's views on one aspect of the state of nature, that is, life without government. For instance, you might talk about their claims about natural rights or their descriptions of life in a state of nature. How are their positions similar? How are they different? What is the best thing to be said for Hobbes's position? What is the best thing to be said for Locke's? What do you think? Is one philosopher's view closer to the truth or is there a superior third position that they did not consider?
2. Compare Hobbes and Locke's views on the right to punish criminals. Describe one significant difference between their positions. What is the best thing to be said for Hobbes's position? What is the best thing to be said for Locke's? What do you think? Is one philosopher's view closer to the truth or is there a superior third position that they did not consider?
3. Both Hobbes and Locke insisted that the state had to be based on a voluntary consent to a social contract. David Hume famously argued that this was impossible (see "Of the original contract," p. 475.) Spell out at least one of Hume's arguments. Describe the best response that either Hobbes or Locke could make to this argument. Would that response be adequate?

