

## Second paper topics

Write a paper no longer than 1800 words, about 5-6 pages, on one of the topics below. Please turn your paper in to my box in 208 Pearsons by 11:30 on Thursday, April 9. Good luck!

1. Suppose Charles found Hobbes's reply to the Fool in chapter 15 of *Leviathan* completely convincing. "Mr. Hobbes has shown it is clearly irrational to break your covenants, even in the state of nature!" But this led Charles to a question. "Why do we need the state? It's so obviously rational to keep covenants that you can rely on people to do so on their own." Explain this train of thought and why it poses a problem for Hobbes. How might Hobbes try to answer Charles's question? Could he succeed?
2. Hobbes described the social contract as involving two things: giving up rights of governing ourselves and authorizing the sovereign's actions (see *Leviathan*, ch. 17, par. 13). What is the difference between giving up rights and authorizing? Why did Hobbes think it was important to say that the social contract involves both? Do we really have to authorize *all* of the sovereign's actions and give up *all* of our rights? Give a compelling reason for thinking Hobbes went too far. How would Hobbes answer this? Would his answer succeed?
3. Locke tried to show that individuals have property rights prior to any social arrangements. Explain Locke's argument for this conclusion: what did he try to prove and how did he try to prove it? Did he succeed? Consider at least one compelling objection and Locke's possible responses in giving your answer.
4. Hobbes and Locke clearly had different attitudes towards revolution. But they both thought there are rights to engage in revolution. Describe the differences between the rights to revolution that each thought we have. What are the most important advantages and disadvantages to each philosopher's approach? What do you think: do we have a right to revolution or not?

