

# November 5

Hobbes is good to read for several reasons

- Influenced ppl like Locke
- Hobbes is like the crazy relative
  - Made the family fortune
  - Made the family what it is
  - W/o the crazy relative the family wouldn't exist in the same way
- Thomas Hobbes was:
  - Englishmen
  - 1588-1679
    - Lived long time
  - Smart/witty
  - Tennis player
    - Into his 70s
  - Some see Hobbes as the real founder of modern political science
    - Others see Machiavelli
    - Hobbes tries to make it scientific
      - Make poli sci like geometry
  - Lived through a turbulent time of English history
    - Lived through lots of political changes
- The Leviathan
  - Title from the book of Job
    - Sea monster
    - Supposed to represent God's power
      - God created the Leviathan to rule over the sons of pride
      - Hobbes
        - The Leviathan is something man made to rule over the sons of pride/man
  - Ch. 13
    - State of nature/war
    - Puts together the preceding chapters into a coherent idea
      - Of man section
    - What if there was no gov't?
      - Mathematical deduction in some respects

- Hobbes thinks this question will reveal human nature
- Begins with the claim that ALL humans are equal
  - Fundamental assertion/claim
  - In what sense?
    - They're all equally vulnerable to being killed
      - No one is strong/smart enough to be able to escape death
- Next part, all equal and passionate beings
  - Driven by passion, not reason
    - Reason only figures out how to fulfill our passions
  - Desire to acquire
    - Competition
    - Part of nature
  - Desire to diffidence or fear
    - Diffidence is a constant fear
      - Experienced in the state of nature
      - Hobbes suggests that the state of fear is natural for humans who understand the world
  - Desire for glory
    - Hobbes description is sometimes called a depiction of a world where only self-interested people rule
    - Not a rational passion
      - Most conflict in the world
    - Want others to value us highly
      - Whenever someone does something that makes you feel bad that causes conflict
        - If they don't value you equally then you have conflict
- Equality + Passion = War
  - Constant war
  - Everyman against everyman
  - Preemptive war

## November 7

Thomas Hobbes is our transition between Machiavelli/Locke

Mathematical basis for political science

- Imagine there's no gov't
  - Equality, all ppl are equal
    - In the sense that everyone can be killed

- Passions
  - Acquisitiveness
  - Fear
  - Glory
    - Root is the natural desire to be valued by others
    - Think as much of us as they do of themselves
- Equality + Passion = War
  - Given the passions war follows
  - War = worst possible
    - Everyman against everyman
      - Leads to man's life being solitary/poor/nasty/brutish/short
      - Worst part = the fear of death
        - Never leaves
- Hobbes Responds to the objection that his argument is too primitive/pessimistic
  - Look at the way nations relate to each other
  - Look inside ourselves
  - Look at primitive tribes
  - In our actions we accuse it in the same way Hobbes does
    - Hobbes does it by word
- Hobbes can also be seen as an optimist
  - What is possible for humans.
    - There's a way out of this mess
    - We need another equation
      - Equality is permanent
      - There are different/other passions
        - Fear
        - Comfortable living
      - Equality + Passions(Fear and Comfortable living) = Peace
        - Agree to not harm each other
        - Establish a gov't
          - Powerful enough to enforce that agreement
          - Hobbes gov't = a leviathan
            - To rule over the sons of pride
            - Suppress the passion for glory
            - Escape from the fear of death
            - Best form was a monarchy