

# **PHIL 008-920: The Social Contract**

## **Summer 2021 Session II prospectus**

*(subject to change)*

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### **Description**

This is a critical survey of the history of modern Anglo-American political philosophy, beginning from the Early Modern period and concluding with the 20th century. Our study begins with Hobbes and ends with contemporary critics of Rawls. The organizing theme of our investigation will be the idea of the social contract. We will examine different contract theories as well as criticisms and proposed alternatives to the contract idea.

Throughout the course, we'll also work on developing core skills of philosophy: critically engaging with material, reasoning effectively, and communicating clearly.

### **Format**

- Online, synchronous

### **Assessment**

- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Weekly responses (approx. 1 page each): 20%
- Paper (approx. 5 pages): 60%

### **Schedule**

- Week 1: Intro, Hobbes
- Week 2: Locke, Astell
- Week 3: Rousseau, Wollstonecraft
- Week 4: Hume, Mill
- Week 5: Rawls
- Week 6: Marx, Mills