

Phil 104, Second Paper Assignment

Maximum Length: No more than three pages, double spaced, 12-point font, one-inch margins

Due: Monday, October 18, by 10:10am (before the lecture starts). Please hand in your paper, in person, to your GSI. *Please see the syllabus for other relevant policies.*

Topic:

Hobbes offers two explanations of how we might relinquish our “rights of nature” and become obligated to obey a single decision-maker (i.e., a “sovereign”) in such a way as to successfully escape the “state of war.” One explanation he calls “institution”; the other explanation he calls “acquisition.”

Choose one of these explanations (i.e., either institution or acquisition, but not both). Give an interpretation of how the explanation works. Raise what, in your opinion, is a serious objection to the explanation (so interpreted). **If** you think that the objection can be overcome, then explain how. **If instead** you think that the objection is compelling, then explain what you think the implications are for the possibility of justifying political authority.