



## Central Problems B | PIU11022

Year	Junior Fresher
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 lectures; 10 tutorials
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. Samantha Fazekas
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### Module Outline:

#### **Component 1: (Natural Right/Natural Law):**

This component will explore the concepts of natural right and natural law, namely, inalienable rights and systems of laws that emerge from human nature (as opposed to societal norms or positive laws). Since natural rights and natural laws are established by examining the state of nature, we will begin by analyzing human nature before the construction of societies and governments. This will lead us to question what motivates human beings to erect states, what states owe to citizens, and what citizens owe to states in return.

### Recommended Reading List:

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term. Our central texts will be excerpts from the following:

- Aristotle, *Politics*, trans. William Ellis (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2013).
- Thomas Hobbes, *The Leviathan* (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2021).
- David Hume, "Of the Original Contract," *Hume's Political Discourses*, ed. William Bell Robertson (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2019).
- John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1999).

#### **Component 2: (Revolution):**

This component will analyze the causes, objectives, and features of revolutions. We will begin by defining revolutions and distinguishing them from other forms of resistance, e.g., protests and civil disobedience. We will cover philosophical thinkers with radically opposing views on revolution. Some believe that citizens have the right to rebel against the state when the state no longer serves the interest of the political community (e.g., John Locke and Hannah Arendt). In contrast, others believe that revolutions contradict the sovereignty citizens transfer to the state (e.g., Thomas Hobbes and Immanuel Kant). This will lead us to question the conditions under which revolutions are or are not justified.



## Recommended Reading List:

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term. Our central texts will be excerpts from the following:

- Hannah Arendt, *On Violence* (New York: Harcourt, Inc.: 1970).
- Thomas Hobbes, *The Leviathan* (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2021).
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2021).
- Immanuel Kant, "On the Common Saying: 'This May Be True in Theory but it Does not Apply in Practice,'" *Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History*, ed. with an Introduction by Pauline Kleingeld, trans. David Colclasure (New Haven: Yale University Press: 2006).

## Assessments:

For each component: 1 Exam (mid-term) 50% **AND** 1 Essay (end of module) 50%