

**Summer Courses, Summer 2017**  
**JOHN LOCKE**  
**Instructor: Peter Berkowitz**  
**Washington, D.C.**

Students will engage in close study of the principal political writings of John Locke, the seventeenth-century British philosopher whose views on political liberty helped shape the U.S. Constitution. They will examine the foundations of the modern tradition of freedom, including natural freedom and equality, limited government, the right to property, religious toleration, and the proper education of free citizens.

**Books:**

- John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought)
- John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (Hackett Classics)
- John Locke, *Some Thoughts Concerning Education* (Hackett Classics)

**Resources**

To learn more about the ideas and figures discussed in this course, we encourage you to explore a project supported by the Hertog Foundation: **The Great Thinkers** (<http://thegreatthinkers.org/>) and **Contemporary Thinkers** (<http://contemporarythinkers.org/>) websites. These sites are aimed at introducing important thinkers in Western thought, with a particular emphasis on politics and philosophy.

Relevant pages include Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and The Federalist (on The Great Thinkers), and Leo Strauss (on Contemporary Thinkers).

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**Monday, July 3, 2017, 9:00 am to Noon**

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***The State of Nature***

Readings:

- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 1–4
- Genesis, Chaps. 1–3 (hand-out)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is “the natural condition of mankind”?
2. What is the law of nature?
3. What does the state of nature teach about human nature?
4. What does the state of war teach about the state of nature and human nature?

5. What is property, how is it acquired, how is it preserved, and how does it benefit humanity?

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## **Tuesday, July 4, 2017, 9:00 am to Noon**

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### ***The Origins and Ends of Government***

#### Readings:

- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 5–9

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What is paternal power, how is it justified, and how far does it extend?
2. How do commonwealths come into existence and by what principles are they constituted?
3. What is prerogative and what are its limits?
4. How are commonwealths dissolved?

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## **Wednesday, July 5, 2017, 9:00 am to Noon**

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### ***Locke's Second Treatise Cont'd***

#### Readings:

- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chaps. 10–14, and Chap. 19, paragraphs 221–26

#### Discussion Questions:

See questions from previous assignments.

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## **Thursday, July 6, 2017, 9:00 am to Noon**

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### ***Religion and Toleration***

#### Readings:

- John Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What is “the business of true religion”?
2. How does Christianity teach toleration?
3. What is “the business of civil government”?

4. How far does the duty of toleration extend and what does it require?
5. Is Locke's denial of toleration to Catholics and atheists consistent with his principles?
6. How is religious toleration connected to other forms of toleration?

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**Friday, July 7, 2017, 9:00 am to Noon**

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## ***Education***

### Readings:

- John Locke, *Some Thoughts Concerning Education*, pages 7–112

### Discussion Questions:

1. What, for Locke, is the primary goal of education?
2. Toward what virtues, or virtue, is Lockean education directed?
3. Why are tutors necessary?
4. Why does Locke stress the “love of reputation”?
5. In what sense is courage or fortitude “the guard and support of the other virtues”?