

Political Science 119A
Social Contract Theory

Spring 2007

Professor David Forman-Barzilai

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Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 1-2

Course Description: In this course, we will examine the most influential political theories about social contract, historically, thematically, comparatively, and critically.

Evaluation: Short Paper -- 20%; Midterm Paper -- 30%; Final Paper -- 50%

Required Textbook: Joseph Losco and Leonard Williams, eds., *Political Theory*, St. Martins.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Reading assignment: Losco and Williams, pp. 1-7

Weeks 2-3 (no class Friday, April 13): Hobbes (1588-1679)

Reading assignment: Losco and Williams, pp. 48-85

Short paper, due Friday, April 20

Weeks 4-5: Locke (1632-1704)

Reading assignment: Losco and Williams, pp. 86-139

Weeks 6-7 (no class on May 18): Rousseau (1712-1778)

Reading assignment: Losco and Williams, pp. 140-196

Midterm: Wednesday, May 16

Weeks 8-9 (no class on May 28): Rawls (1921-2002)

Reading assignment: Losco and Williams, pp. 140-196

Week 10: Contemporary theories: Nozick and Gauthier

Reading assignment: Handout

Final paper due on Wednesday, June 13, between 11:30 and 12:00, in our classroom