

Study/Reading Questions for Wolff, Ch. 1

Hobbes

- What is the “state of nature”?
- Why, according to Hobbes, is strong government needed?
- What is ‘felicity’, on Hobbes’ view?
- Why does ‘felicity’ lead us to the ‘war of all against all’?
- What are the three reasons that Hobbes proposes for attacking others in the state of nature?
- What is the ‘natural right of liberty’?
- What’s the difference between individual rationality and collective rationality?

Locke

- What, according to Locke, is the “Law of Nature”?
- What is the “Executive Power of Nature”?
- On Locke’s view, there *is* something like an enforceable moral order in the state of nature. Why, then, does he think that we need government?

Rousseau

- On Rousseau’s view, what important element of human motivation/psychology is missing from the views of Hobbes and Locke?
- Will Rousseau’s “savage man” be inclined to attack others in the state of nature? Why/why not?
- On Rousseau’s view, what gives rise to the need for a state?
- Why doesn’t Rousseau advocate a return to the state of nature?

Philosophical Anarchism

- Do philosophical anarchists think that we should work to actively overthrow the state?
- Why, according to Wolfe, is it “impossibly hopeful” to think that government is the cause of all anti-social behavior?
- How, according to philosophical anarchists, can we avoid the spread of anti-social behavior in the state of nature?
- What is the dilemma, according to Wolfe, that philosophical anarchism faces as a result of the existence of anti-social behavior?