

COURSE SCHEDULE (Sample)
GOVT 80: The Moral Natural Law

COURSE READINGS AND SCHEDULE

READING SCHEDULE

- Week 1** **Introduction; Men Without Chests?**
*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "Natural Law"
C. S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*
- 2** **Facts and Values**
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Robert Bartlett, Book I

Recommended:
Leo Strauss, *Natural Right and History*, ch. 2
- 3** **Moral Virtue**
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books II-IV
- 4** **Political Right and Practical Wisdom**
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books V-VI

Recommended:
Leo Strauss, *Natural Right and History*, chs. 3 and 4 (esp. pp 156-164)
- 5** **Natural Law**
Cicero, *On the Republic*, Book III (excerpt, tbd)
Cicero, *On Duties*, Book I
- 6** **Classical Natural Law: Virtue and Utility**
Cicero, *On Duties*, Books II-III
- 7** **Biblical Religion and Natural Law**
The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)
The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21)
Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, in *On Law, Morality, and Politics*, eds.
Baumgarth and Regan, pp. 11-83
- 8** **Thomistic Natural Law**
Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, in *On Law, Morality, and Politics*, pp. 83-114
- 9** **Thomas and the "Social" Issues**
*Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*, III.140-146 (tbd)
*Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, I-II, Q. 71, A. 1-6; Q. 99, A. 1-6; Q. 101,
A. 1-2; Q. 104, A. 1-3 (tbd)

- 10** **Holiday Break** (precise location in the schedule tbd)
- 11** **Religion, War, and Natural Law**
*Hugo Grotius, *On the Law of War and Peace*, Introduction
- 12** **Natural Rights and the State of Nature**
Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 9-18, 21
- 13** **Natural Rights and Free Government**
John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 1-9, 11, 19
- 14** **Natural Law and America**
Declaration of Independence
*James Wilson, *Lectures on Law*, excerpts
*Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail*
- 15** **Final Exam or Paper** (due by Friday at the end of the week)

BOOKS

Required:

C. S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*. Many editions.

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*. Translated by Robert Bartlett and Susan D. Collins. University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Cicero, *On Duties*. Translated by M. T. Griffin. Edited by E. M. Atkins. Cambridge University Press, 1991. ISBN: 9780521348355

Aquinas, *On Law, Morality, and Politics, Second Edition*. Edited by Richard J. Regan and William P. Baumgarth. Hackett Publishing Company, 2003.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*. Edited by Edwin Curwin. Hackett Publishing Company.

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*. Many editions.

Recommended:

Leo Strauss, *Natural Right and History*. University of Chicago Press, 1951. An important but difficult book exploring the natural law tradition.

Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*. Many editions.

Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*. Many editions.