17.03. Introduction to Political Thought
Lecture Outline: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Introduction and chs. 6, 10-11, 13

Dates: 1588   Born
       1640   Fled to Paris
       1642   Civil War began in England
       1649   Charles I executed
       1651   Leviathan published
       1652   Returned to England
       1660   Charles II restored
       1666   Bill introduced into House of Commons which would have rendered Hobbes
                liable to prosecution for atheism or heresy
       1679   Died

I. Background
      A. Served as a 'domestick' in a noble house; acquaintance with leading scientists
      B. English Civil War (Hobbes was a royalist)
          1. Charles I: effort to rule without Parliament
          2. Civil War: Charles I beheaded; Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate
          3. Stuart Restoration: Charles II
      C. Hobbes's religious disagreements with the royalists
      D. Hobbes's skepticism
          1. Difficulty of attaining knowledge of any kind
          2. Can agree on one fundamental: everyone seeks self-preservation
          3. Purely secular argument: relies on 'rules of reason', not God

II. Hobbes's aims
      A. Develop a theory of human nature in accordance with the scientific revolution of
         Galileo: use of the scientific method to get knowledge of human nature
      B. Develop a moral theory of political obligation based on consent

III. Hobbes's view of human nature, challenge to Aristotelianism
      A. Mechanistic: inspired by Euclid's geometric method, system based on a few axioms
          1. Two basic drives: appetite and aversion
          2. Revised idea of individual will: simply the last in a string of appetites
      B. Human beings not naturally social or political
      C. Nature not a source of moral standards: nothing is just by nature
      D. No such thing as the highest good (summum bonum) but worst evil (summum malum)

IV. State of Nature
      A. Natural equality of men: nature has made men equal in faculties of body and mind
      B. Why is the state of nature a state of war?
          1. Competition
          2. Diffidence
          3. Glory
      C. "Where no Law, no Injustice": law and justice are purely conventional
      D. Where no law, no property