

### **Reading Questions: Hobbes, *Leviathan II***

1. What does it mean to represent something, according to Hobbes? How does representation affect responsibility? Can we be held responsible for the actions of our representative?
2. How do individuals “erect the common power” of the sovereign? How is the sovereign created? How does this covenant differ from that of the covenant in Exodus?
3. For what purpose is the sovereign created?
4. What are the powers of the sovereign? What power does the sovereign have over the “doctrines” which are taught to its subjects? Why is this power important?
5. How does a sovereign by acquisition differ from a sovereign by institution? How are they the same? Where does the right of dominion come from in conquest?
6. In the state of nature, who possesses “dominion” over children? How does Hobbes’s view on this point differ from earlier writers, particularly in the Christian tradition?
7. In what does the liberty of the subject primarily consist? When, if ever, does the subject’s obligation to obey the sovereign end? When, if ever, can a subject resist the sovereign by force? Why or why not?
8. What is the source of civil law according to Hobbes? How does this compare with earlier ideas of natural law? Is the sovereign subject to law?
9. Is the law of nature binding without being enacted by the will of sovereign? Could the law of nature conflict with the civil law? In answering these questions, consider where we would learn about the laws of nature, since they are unwritten. Hint: we’ve read some of it in this class.
10. What are the primary causes of dissolution of the commonwealth? Why does Hobbes see the distinction between temporal and ghostly as a source of dissolution of the commonwealth?