

**MA Ethics Seminar**  
**Readings: Hobbes and egoism**

A stimulating introductory discussion of amoralism and egoism can be found in the first four chapters of

Bernard Williams: Morality: an Introduction to Ethics (CUP 1972).

Psychological egoism is characterized and defended against several objections by Elliott Sober in his contribution to

Hugh LaFollette, ed: The Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory (Blackwell 2000).

Hobbes' moral philosophy is outlined in

Thomas Hobbes: Leviathan , esp. the first six chapters (although relevant material is scattered throughout the entire book).

The Hackett edition, ed. E. Curley, is by far the best, but any edition will do. Two less well known works of Hobbes, however, contain a presentation of his moral views which is in many respects clearer than the one in Leviathan:

Thomas Hobbes: De Homine and De Cive, extracts translated in Man and Citizen, ed. E. Curley (Hackett).

For a very readable discussion of Hobbesian moral philosophy, see

Gregory Kavka: Hobbesian Moral and Political Theory (Princeton UP 1986).

and also Bernard Gert's contribution to

Tom Sorell, ed: The Cambridge Companion to Hobbes (CUP 1996)

which has worthwhile things to say on the sense in which Hobbes is indeed an egoist.