

Example of Teaching Materials **CARD MODEL**

POLI 240 Lesson Plan: Week 5-Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan

Assigned Reading:

Leviathan: Introduction, Ch 1-6, 11, 12 (pp. 60-66), 13, 17, 18

Context: 4-7 minutes

Hobbes's Leviathan is famous for its description of a terrifying, no-rule State of Nature where life is "solitary, poor, *nasty*, brutish, and short". Let us talk briefly about that to make sure everyone in the tutorial has at least a basic grasp of the concept.

Activity: 20-25 minutes

A game is ideal for this context: students are – for whatever reason – transported/teleported/magically transferred to a medium size desert island carrying only what they have with them in the tutorial. There is no food on the island except for 4 hot dogs which mysteriously appear in the middle of the island every morning at dawn. It is abundantly clear this is not going to be enough for 15/18 students. How will they share the food each day? For streamlining purposes each day on the island is about 3-5 minutes. Play the game long enough to demonstrate Hobbes's points.

Note: The premise is kept silly on purpose to keep the mood light. Some students might take 'winning' or 'losing' seriously even in such games and this sort of extreme competitiveness can ruin the tutorial's mood not to mention the point of the game.

Note: It is helpful to have students take notes of their 'days' on the islands

Reflection: 10-15 minutes

What happened? Why did they behave the way they did? They are all kind people, why did they act in such ways? If it's indeed about the scarcity of food (*resources* in Hobbes's terms) that drove them to such behaviors, what about glory and/or fear? Are they 'Hobbesian' after all? Is Hobbes right assuming that we're all brutes constrained by the overawing power of the government? Is greater force the only thing holding us together? If so, would they agree with Hobbes that an absolute government and authoritarianism are ideal forms of governance?

Documentation: 3-5 minutes

Summary:

I briefly synthesize the conceptual discussion and how it applied to our case studies. I also summarize our findings related to autonomy, capacity and how they can affect myriad policy issues.