

States of Nature

HNRS 2030 / Spring 2018 / MW 4:30 – 5:50



We will look at some classics in the social contract tradition in political thought: Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. As these writers claim that life in states is superior to life in non-state societies (that is, in the “state of nature”) we’ll critically examine the state superiority thesis by work in anthropology and political theory, as well as in the third great classical social contract thinker, Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

John Protevi / protevi@lsu.edu

Detailed course website:

<http://www.protevi.com/john/SN/index.html>