Hobbes Outline

1) What is political theory? It is an attempt to understand and solve problems of group life and organization.

2) To understand Hobbes we need to keep in mind a couple of things.

 a) Hobbes’ historical context.

 1) 30 Years of War.

 2) Capitalism – Rising Middle Class

 b) The Middle Ages and the Thomistic view of law and the state.

4) You see in Hobbes a 20th century conception of man and society.

5) Where does the state get its right to tell me what to do?

6) Aquinas: The purpose of the state is to help us reach our God given ends.

 a) Natural Law

 b) Reason

 c) Teleology

 d) Organic view of the state

7) Hobbes Political Science

 a) Human Nature

 b) Good and Evil

 c) State of Nature

 d) Laws of Nature

 e) Contract and Civil Society

 f) Moran and Political Obligation to Obey the Law

Be careful out there!