

Political Science 145
Seminar: The Political Thought of Machiavelli
Tufts University
Spring Semester 2014

This seminar will consider Machiavelli's two great political works: *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*. In addition to considering the meaning of each, the course will also treat the vexing question of the relation between these two seemingly very different works. In treating this question, the course will examine Machiavelli's views on Christianity and the role of religion in a state, his insistence on the centrality of foreign policy in defining the nature of a regime, his belief in the necessity of great individuals to found and reorder civilizations, and the relation between his claim to originality and his insistence that the ancient Roman republic is a model for imitation.

Office Hours

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Monday, 1:30 -3. Packard 111
Wednesday 1:30-3 Department of Classics
Friday 10:30-11:30 Packard 111
Other times by appointment

Learning Objectives

This seminar serves as an intellectual capstone project for the major. Accordingly, it requires a substantial research paper (20 pages in length). In researching and writing this paper, students will learn how to conduct and present research in the subfield of political theory. The final paper must examine secondary material not assigned for the seminar meetings. The final paper will be evaluated on the following criteria: a clearly defined thesis that is argued throughout the paper; use of evidence to sustain this thesis; use of secondary sources; contribution to the scholarship; and the quality of writing.

Required Books

Machiavelli, *The Prince*, University of Chicago Press
Machiavelli, *Mandragola*, Waveland Press
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, University of Chicago Press
Livy, *Early History of Rome*, Penguin
Livy, *Rome and Italy*, Penguin

Recommended Books

Livy, *Rome and the Mediterranean*, Penguin
Livy, *War with Hannibal*, Penguin
Strauss, *Thoughts on Machiavelli*, University of Chicago Press
Sullivan, *Machiavelli's Three Romes*, Northern Illinois University Press

Books on Reserve (3 day)

Bock, Skinner, Viroli, ed., *Machiavelli and Republicanism*
Coby, *Machiavelli's Romans*
Hörnqvist, *Machiavelli and Empire*
Mansfield, *Machiavelli's New Modes and Orders*
Mansfield, *Machiavelli's Virtue*
McCormick, *Machiavellian Democracy*
Parel, ed., *The Political Calculus: Essays on Machiavelli's Philosophy*
Pitkin, *Fortune is a Woman*
Pocock, *Machiavellian Moment*
Skinner, *Machiavelli*
Skinner, *Foundations of Modern Political Thought*, Vol. 1
Sullivan, *Machiavelli, Hobbes, and the Formation of a Liberal Republicanism in England*
Sullivan, *Machiavelli's Three Romes*
Sullivan, ed., *Comedy and Tragedy of Machiavelli: Essays on the Literary Works*
Walker, ed., *The Discourses of Niccolò Machiavelli*, Vols. 1&2 [This is an earlier translation of the *Discourses*; volume 2 contains helpful notes]
Viroli, *Machiavelli*

Requirements:

Class Paper

As this is a seminar, class participation will be an integral part of the course. To aid participation, at least one student each week shall write a paper (7 to 10 pages in length) on the material to be discussed in class. The paper will be due the Monday before the class meeting and should be distributed to the other members of the seminar through Trunk. Each student will be required to write one such paper during the course of the semester. These papers should offer an insightful interpretation of the assigned text that elucidates its meaning. Each student is responsible for determining the topic on which he or she will write. After the student has selected a topic, the student will need to frame the argument. The student should state the thesis explicitly in the introduction of the paper and support it vigorously throughout the paper. This means that one must know what one is going to argue before one begins writing. (Often, when writing, one makes important discoveries that change the direction of the argument. When such a fortunate event happens to you—and it is fortunate—it is necessary to rewrite the essay to take account of your new insight.)

In addition to having a thesis, the paper must provide evidence for the argument. It is necessary to quote and to cite the evidence from the work that the paper interprets. Sources from the required reading should be cited in the text as follows: Machiavelli states: "Among all men praised, the most praised are those who have been heads and orderers of religions" (*Discourses*, 1.10, p. 31); or Machiavelli exhorts human beings to conquer fortune (*Prince*, 25, pp. 98-101). (After your initial naming of the text you need not repeat it in the references, unless you are also citing another primary source in the text.) It is not necessary to consult outside sources for these papers, but if you do, you must provide full references to any outside sources in notes.

Reaction Papers

The other members of the seminar are required to write reaction papers (1-2 pages in length) to the class paper, and these reaction papers will be due in class each week. In writing them, students should concentrate on the argument of that week's class paper. Is the argument clear? Is it well supported? Is there other evidence that the author ignores that would buttress the point? Does other evidence exist that contradicts the thesis of the class paper? Are there ramifications of the argument that the class paper ignores? All these questions could furnish the focus of a response paper. If you wish to provide additional evidence in your response, follow the guidelines for citation above. Obviously, in order to write the reaction paper, it is necessary to have read not only the class paper, but the assignment as well.

A Word on Livy

Students should read *Early History of Rome* and *Rome and Italy* in their entirety as soon as possible. Students responsible for the class paper for a particular assignment from the *Discourses* should treat the accompanying passages from Livy as required reading. The students writing reaction papers should consult these particular passages from Livy as appropriate.

Final Paper

In addition to the reaction papers and the larger paper, students are required to write a final paper (20 pages in length). These papers must draw on outside secondary sources. Some secondary sources are on reserve. I am happy to direct students to others. Students may use their work on the shorter paper as the basis for the final paper. All final papers must be submitted through turnitin.com.

No work will be accepted after the end of the semester. Any work that is submitted after the due date will suffer a penalty. As this is a seminar, attendance is critical. Students who are absent for three or more meetings should not expect to receive a passing grade in the course.

Final grades will be determined in the following manner:

Class paper, seven to ten pages in length	20%
Final paper, twenty pages in length	40%
Reaction papers	20%
Participation	20%

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Wednesday, January 15	Introduction to the Course.
Wednesday, January 22	No class; Wednesday schedule.
Wednesday, January 29	<i>The Prince</i> .
Wednesday, February 5	<i>The Prince</i> , continued; <i>La Mandragola</i> .
Wednesday, February 12	<i>Discourses on Livy</i> , Book 1, preface, chapters 1-10. Livy, Book 1, chapters 1-16, 49-60, Book 2, chapters 19-40, Book 5, chapter 33, Book 6, chapters 11-20, Book 9, chapter 26. Polybius (to be distributed).
Wednesday, February 19	<i>Discourses</i> , Book 1, chapters 11-24. Livy, Book 1, chapters 17-35, Book 2, chapters 1-5, 10-15, Book 3, chapters 9-11, 15-20, Book 5, chapters 13-22, 47, Book 7, chapters 4-5, Book 10, chapters, 31, 38-42.
Wednesday, February 26	<i>Discourses</i> , Book 1, chapters 25-45. Livy, Book 2, chapters 6-9, 16-18, 41-50, Book 3, chapters 1-9, 30-59, 61, Book 4, chapters 1-6, Book 5, chapters 8-12, 23-25, 32, Book 6, chapters 35-42, Book 8, chapters 30-36.
Wednesday, March 5	<i>Discourses</i> , Book 1, chapters 46-60, Book 2, preface. Livy, Book 3, chapters 50-51, 64-69, Book 4, chapters 1-8, 23-26, 56-60, Book 5, chapters 23-25, 32, Book 6, chapter 4, Book 7, chapters 26, 32.

- Wednesday, March 12
Discourses, Book 2, chapters 1-15.
 Livy, Book 1, chapter 30, Book 2, chapter 9, Book 5, chapters 1, 29-31, 33-34, Book 7, chapters, 23-24, 29-31, Book 8, chapters 1-11, Book 9, chapters, 14, 16-19, Book 10, chapter 31.
- Wednesday, March 26
Discourses, Book 2, chapters 16-25.
 Livy, Book 2, chapters 20, 44-47, Book 7, chapters 38-41, Book 8, chapters 1-14, 19-21, Book 9, chapters 1-12, 20-23.
- Wednesday, April 2
Discourses, Book 2, chapters 26-33, Book 3, chapters 1-5.
 Livy, Book 1, chapters 35, 39-42, 46-48, 56-60, Book 2, chapters 1-5, 10-13, Book 3, chapters 53, 56-58, Book 4, chapters, 13-16, Book 5, chapters 35-55, Book 6, chapters 1-2, 6-7, 11-20, 22, 38, 42, Book 7, chapters 1, 41, Book 8, chapters 6-9, 22-26, 30-36, Book 9, chapters 35-36, Book 10, chapters 28-29.
- Wednesday, April 9
Discourses, Book 3, chapters 6-15.
 Livy, Book 2, chapters 4, 39-41, 44, 47, 64, Book 3, chapter 70, Book 4, chapters 27-34, 48, Book 5, chapter 21, Book 6, chapters 3, 11-20, Book 7, chapters 12-15, 38-41, Book 9, chapter 1.
Proposal for Final Paper Due
- Wednesday, April 16
Discourses, Book 3, chapters 16-35.
 Livy, Book 1, chapters 57-59, Book 2, chapters 56-61, Book 3, chapters 11-14, 19-21, 24-29, 44-48, 58, Book 4, chapters 9-10, 13-16, 34-41, Book 5, chapters 19-23, 25-29, 32, Book 6, chapters 6-7, 21, 28-30, 40-42, Book 7 chapters 4-6, 9-11, 26, 32-33, 40-41, Book 8, chapters 6-8, 10, 22-23, 25-26, Book 9, chapter 37.
- Wednesday, April 23
Discourses, Book 3, chapters 36-49.
 Book 5, chapter 39, Book 7, chapters, 9-11, 32-37, Book 8, chapter 34, Book 9, chapters 2-4, 8-12, 33-34, 38, 46, Book 10, chapters 4, 10, 16, 18, 21, 28-30.
- Wednesday, May 7
Final Paper Due at noon