

## **Political Science 671**

### **History of Political Thought from the Protestant Reformation to the French Revolution**

**Winter 2006**

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Class: Tu., Th. 10:30-12:18  
Office hrs: Tu., Th. 3:30-4:30  
2127 Derby Hall

*This course surveys the history of political thought in the early modern period. We will focus on Niccolo Machiavelli and the three great social contract theorists, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, while also devoting some attention such thinkers as Martin Luther, John Calvin, Jean Bodin, Hugo Grotius, Montesquieu, Bernard Mandeville, David Hume, and Adam Smith. Some familiarity with either moral and political philosophy or early modern intellectual history will be helpful, but it is not a prerequisite for the course.*

#### **Course Requirements**

There are three main course requirements:

1. Quizzes. There will be a series of unannounced quizzes over the course of the quarter, designed to ensure class preparation and check reading comprehension. These quizzes will be given at the start of class at least seven times throughout the quarter. Each student's top five quiz scores will be counted, and each quiz will be worth five percent of the final grade (for a total of 25%).
2. Midterm paper. A 6-8 page paper on an assigned topic due on Feb. 7 in class. Topics will be distributed on Jan. 31. The midterm paper counts for 25% of the final grade.
3. Final paper. A 12-18 page paper on an assigned topic due on March 10 by 4:00pm in the instructor's mailbox. Topics will be distributed not later than Feb. 28. The final paper counts for 50% of the final grade.

#### **Course Materials**

The following books are available for purchase at the Ohio State Book Store

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*. Translated and edited by Harvey C. Mansfield. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Richard Tuck. Revised student ed. Cambridge University Press, 1991

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*, ed. Peter Laslett. Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *The Social Contract and Discourses*. Translated and edited G.D.H. Cole et al. Rutland, Vt.: J.M. Dent, 1973.

*There is also a **required** coursepack available for purchase at SBX (approx. \$20).*

### Course Policies

**Attendance** – Students are expected to attend lectures regularly and to have prepared adequately with respect to the assigned readings. Periodic quizzes over the reading will help to motivate both regular attendance and adequate preparation. There is no other sanction for missing a lecture, and it is not necessary to obtain prior approval from the instructor when missing a class meeting is unavoidable. Students bear the entire responsibility for the decision to miss class and for whatever effect that may have on their quiz scores or their comprehension of the course material.

**Academic Honesty** – The work students submit as their midterm and final papers must be entirely their own. In addition citing the assigned readings as evidence, students who draw on secondary sources or the interpretations of others must acknowledge their sources and debts, and students who quote from other sources **must** make this clear by their use of quotation marks and citations. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will in every instance be referred to the appropriate university disciplinary authorities.

**Midterm and final papers** – Midterm and final papers are to be critical essays on assigned topics. Students who wish to propose an alternative topic may do so not later than the class period following the distribution of assigned topics. The instructor's policy is not to review drafts of papers before submission, but the instructor is willing to discuss topics, arguments, etc., during office hours or appointments, and to review one-page summaries of thesis statements, paper outlines, etc., when these are submitted to him well in advance (not less than three full days prior to the due date). Portions of the midterm paper, suitably revised, may be incorporated into the final paper where appropriate, though in no case should the new material in the final paper be less than the minimum length of the paper (12 new pages).

**Late penalties** – Papers must be turned in at the assigned time and place. A penalty up to 1/3 of a letter grade will be assessed for each day the paper is late.

**Office hours** – The instructor is available for conferences with students either during office hours or, when meeting during office hours is not possible, by appointment. Students who would like to discuss issues raised in lecture further than class discussions will permit, or students who encounter difficulties with the course or the assigned material, are especially encouraged to attend office hours.

**Disabilities** – *Students with disabilities should make their needs known to the instructor and seek available assistance in the first week of the quarter. For course materials in alternative formats please see Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 292-2880, also in the first week of the quarter.*

## Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

Tuesday, January 3

Introduction and overview of course (no readings)

### I. The Renaissance

A. Machiavelli

Thursday, January 5

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ch. 1-14

Tuesday, January 10

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ch. 15-26

Thursday, January 12

Niccolo Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy* (selections in coursepack)

B. The Protestant Reformation and the Late Renaissance

Tuesday, January 17

Martin Luther (selections in coursepack); *Vindiciae contra tyrannos* (selections in coursepack)

Thursday, January 19

Jean Bodin (selections in coursepack), Michel de Montaigne (selections in coursepack), and Hugo Grotius (selections in coursepack)

### II. The English Civil Wars

A. Hobbes

Tuesday, January 24

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Introduction, ch. 4-6, 10-13

Thursday, January 26

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 14-20

Tuesday, January 31

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 21, 24, 26, 29-30

Thursday, February 2

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 31-32, 43, 46, review and conclusion

B. Locke

Tuesday, February 7

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, ch. 1-9

MIDTERM PAPER DUE TODAY, 10:30am

Thursday, February 9

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, ch. 10-19

Tuesday, February 14

John Locke; *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (in coursepack)

III. The Enlightenment and its Critics

A. Montesquieu

Thursday, February 16

Montesquieu *The Spirit of the Laws* (selections in coursepack)

B. Hume

Tuesday, February 21

David Hume – “Of the First Principles of Government”; “Of the Origin of Government”; “Of the Independency of Parliament”; “Of the Original Contract”; “Of Passive Obedience” (in coursepack)

C. Commercial Society

Thursday, February 23

Bernard Mandeville, *The Fable of the Bees* (selections in coursepack); David Hume "Of Refinement in the Arts" (in coursepack); and Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (selections in coursepack)

D. Rousseau

Tuesday, February 28

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, pp. 43-95

Thursday, March 2

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, pp. 95-126; *The Social Contract* Book I

Tuesday, March 7

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* Book II, Book III ch. 1-11

Thursday, March 9

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* Books III ch. 12 -18, Book IV

Friday, March 10

FINAL EXAM DUE BACK FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 4:00pm