

PSC 373-001 Early Modern Political Theory
Tuesday-Thursday 11:30-12:45

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office hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:45-2:15.

Course Description.

The goal of this course is to understand modern political thought by examining its beginnings in the writings of Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke. In studying some of their most important works, we will focus on their new account of politics, morality, and freedom and on why they think it is necessary and possible to break with earlier traditions of political thought.

Course Objective.

The goal is not so much to learn about the authors whom we read in this course as to learn from them. Students should develop a better understanding of subjects such as justice, freedom, the relation between religion and politics, and liberal education. To that end, students should learn to read more carefully and to write and discuss more cogently.

Format

The course requires careful reading and regular attendance and participation in discussions.

Books Required for Purchase

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*
Locke, John. *Some Thoughts Concerning Education*
_____ *Two Treatises of Government*
Machiavelli, Nicholo. *Discourses on the First Ten Books of Livy*. Mansfield and Tarcov translation.

Grades

Grades will be based on one essay (20%), two mid-term exams (20%), a final exam (30%), and participation (10%). Attendance is required. Students who miss more than three classes without a valid excuse (e.g. medical or family emergency) will have their course grades reduced by half a grade.

Reading Schedule

Aug 26	Intro
Aug 28	Machiavelli Dedicatory Letter, Preface, Book I chapters 1-8.
Sep 2	Book I, chapters 9-19.
Sept 4	Book I, chapters 24-31, 34, 35, 37, 40, 41.
Sept 9	Book I, chapters 55, 58, and 60. Book II, Preface, chapters 1-5,
Sept 11	Book II, chapters 13, 20, 29. Book III, chapters 1-5.
Sept 16	Book III, chapters 9-17, 19-24, 25, 26, 28, 40, 41.
Sept 18	In-class examination.

Sept 23	Hobbes chapter 46, prefatory letter, and introduction.
Sept 25	Hobbes chapters 1-5.
Sept 30	Hobbes 6-8.
Oct 2	Hobbes 10-12.
Oct 7	Hobbes 13-14.
Oct 9	Hobbes 15-18.
Oct 14	Hobbes 19-21.
Oct 16	Hobbes 22, 29-30.
Oct 21	Locke Second Treatise 1-4.
Oct 23	Locke Second Treatise 5.
Oct. 28	Locke Second Treatise 6-7.
Oct 30	Locke Second Treatise 8-12.
Nov 4	In-class examination.
Nov 6	Locke Second Treatise 13-14
Nov 11	Veterans' Day
Nov 13	Locke Second Treatise 15-19
Nov 18	Locke's Some Thoughts Concerning Education. Letter, Sections 1-7, 30-37. (Paper due)
Nov 20	Locke Some Thoughts Concerning Education. Sections 38-99.
Nov 25	Locke Thoughts Concerning Education. Sections 100-139.
Nov 27	Thanksgiving
Dec 2	Locke Thoughts Concerning Education. Sections. 140-195.
Dec 4	Locke Thoughts Concerning Education. Sections. 196-215.

To help you with your reading, several short readings may be available through the library's e-reserve.

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If you use a computer to take notes in class, I reserve the right to require you to send me by e-mail (via your Rebelmail account) a copy of your notes within twelve hours of a particular class. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of the grade.

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UNLV Writing Center

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