Political Science 771
Modern Political Thought
Fall 2010
Tuesday, 3:30pm to 5:45pm, 115 Murphey

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Political Science 771 is the first course in a two course sequence that surveys modern political thought. This course begins with Machiavelli and ends in the late eighteenth century. In addition to reading some of the most significant texts in early modern European political theory, we will read many secondary sources, studying different schools of thought and methods of interpretation.

This course will be run through discussion, so you need to do the reading carefully before class. You should bring the week’s readings to class. I expect all students to participate intelligently and respectfully in class. You will write five three page papers (roughly, 40% of the grade altogether), and one take home final that will be ten to twelve pages (roughly, 60%). Participation also counts toward the final grade.

Short papers be three double-spaced pages long. They should not summarize the texts, but should critically or sympathetically analyze an important argument in the readings. Short papers are due at noon the day of class. You must pick a schedule below for the short papers, and email me your choice by Thursday, August 26th. You will have 72 hours to complete the take home final. Toward the end of the semester you can let me know which day you want the exam.

Schedule #1: August 31, September 21, October 5, November 2 or 9, November 16 or 23
Schedule #2: September 14, October 5, October 26, November 2 or 9, November 16 or 23

You should come see me when you want to talk, either during my office hours or make an appointment. You can also just stop by anytime but Tuesdays; I am often but not always in my office.

Readings
This syllabus is tentative, and I may make some changes along the way, mostly in the secondary literature, though only a few alterations will be made.

The following are the editions that will be used in the course, and are available at the bookstore. All articles are available through the dropbox, while a few readings are online.
Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings* (Hackett)
Hopfl, *Luther & Calvin on Secular Authority* (Cambridge)
Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett)
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)
Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (Hackett)
Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws* (Cambridge)
Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings* (Hackett)
Rousseau, *Emile* (Basic Books)
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Hackett)

**August 24**
Machiavelli, *The Prince*

**August 31**

**September 7**
Luther, ”On Secular Authority” and Calvin, ”On Civil Government” in *Luther and Calvin on Secular Authority*, 3-86
Sheldon Wolin, ”Luther: The Theological and the Political,” in *Politics and Vision: Continuity and Innovation in Western Political Thought* [Boston, 1960 [2004], pp. 127-147].

**September 14**

**September 21**
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 15-21, 26
Hobbes, *De Cive*, chs. 8-9

**September 28**

**October 5**
Locke, *First Treatise*, chs. 1-3 (online), *Second Treatise* (entire)

**October 12**
Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*
James Farr, "'So vile and miserable an estate:' The problem of slavery in Locke’s Political Thought," *Political Theory* 14 (1986), 263-89. yes

October 19
Montesquieu, Persian Letters

October 26
Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws, Books 1-5, 8, 11, 12, 14

November 2
Rousseau, Discourse on Arts and Sciences, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality

November 9
Rousseau, The Social Contract, Discourse on Political Economy

November 16
Rousseau, Emile, pp. 33-50, 77-105, 211-255, 260-278, 313-368
November 23

November 30*
*Interpretations*

December 13
Last day take home exam can be due