

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

Jeff Spinner-Halev
370B Hamilton Hall, 962-0411
Office hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30pm; Thursdays, 10:00-11:30
spinner@email.unc.edu

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)
Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (Oxford)
Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings* (Hackett)
Rousseau, *Emile* (Basic Books)
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Hackett)

August 24

Machiavelli, *The Prince*
Erasmus, *Education of a Christian Prince*, pp. 1-15
Sheldon Wolin, "Machiavelli: Politics and the Economy of Violence" in *Politics and Vision: Continuity and Innovation in Western Political Thought*, Boston, 1960 (2004, pp. 175-213.)
Mary Dietz, "Trapping the Prince: Machiavelli and the Politics of Deception," *American Political Science Review* 80 (1986): 777-99.
Leo Strauss, "Machiavelli's Intention: The Prince." *The American Political Science Review* 51, no. 1 (1957): 13-40.

August 31

Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings*, pp. 81-129, 150-171, 189-193, 198-200, 215-217
Quentin Skinner, "The Republican Ideal of Political Liberty." In *Machiavelli and Republicanism*, ed. Gisela Bock, Quentin Skinner and Maurizio Viroli. Cambridge, 1990, pp. 293-309.
Maurizio Viroli, "Machiavelli and the Republican Idea of Politics," in *Machiavelli and Republicanism*, ed. Gisela Bock, Quentin Skinner, and Maurizio Viroli (Cambridge University Press, 1990), 143-171.
John McCormick, "Machiavellian Democracy: Controlling Elites With Ferocious Populism." *American Political Science Review* 95, no. 2 (2001).
John McCormick. "Machiavelli Against Republicanism: On the Cambridge School's" Guicciardinian Moments"." *Political Theory* 31, no. 5 (2003).

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).
Joshua Mitchell, "Protestant Thought and Republican Spirit: How Luther Enchanted the World," *American Political Science Review*, 86 (1992), 688-695.

Derek S. Jeffreys, "'It's a Miracle of God That There Is Any Common Weal Among Us: Unfaithfulness and Disorder in John Calvin's Political Thought," *Review of Politics* 62 (2000), 107-129.

September 14

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Hobbes's Introduction, ch. 1-7, 10-14

Hobbes, *De Cive*, ch. 5, (<http://www.constitution.org/th/decive.htm>)

Quentin Skinner, "The Ideological Context of Hobbes's Political Thought," *Historical Journal* 9 (1966), 286-317.

David Gauthier, "Thomas Hobbes: Moral Theorist," *Journal of Philosophy* 76 (1979), 547-559. *second day*

Bernard Gert, "Hobbes on Psychological Egoism," *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Vol. 28, No. 4 (Oct. - Dec., 1967), pp. 503-520

September 21

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 15-21, 26

Hobbes, *De Cive*, chs. 8-9

Herzog, Don. *Happy Slaves: A Critique of Consent Theory*, chs. 2-3

Nagel, Thomas. "Hobbes's Concept of Obligation," *The Philosophical Review* 68, no. 1 (1959): 68-83.

September 28

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 29-33, 43-44, review and conclusion; Hobbes, *De Cive*, chs. 15-18;

Hobbes, *Elements of Law*, chs 25-26 (http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Elements_of_Law)

Deigh, John. "Reason and Ethics in Hobbes's *Leviathan*." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 34 (1996): 33-60. No*

Hoekstra, Kinch. "Hobbes on Law, Nature, and Reason." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 41, no. 1 (2003): 111-20. No*

Baumgold, Deborah. "The Difficulties of Hobbes Interpretation." *Political Theory* 36, no. 6 (2008): 827-55. Maybe*

October 5

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

C.B. Macpherson, "The Social Bearing of Locke's Political Theory," *Western Political Quarterly* 7 (1954): 1-22.

Richard Ashcraft, "Revolutionary Politics and Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*: Radicalism and Lockean Political Theory," *Political Theory* 8 (1980), 429-48. No*

John Dunn, "'Trust' in the Politics of John Locke," in *Rethinking Modern Political Theory* (Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press, 1985), 34-54. No*

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

De Roover, Jakob, and Balagangadhara, SN. "John Locke, Christian Liberty, and the Predicament of Liberal Toleration." *Political Theory* 20, no. 10 (2008): 1-27. no

Creppell, Ingrid. "Locke on Toleration: The Transformation of Constraint." *Political Theory* 24, no. 2 (1996): 200-40. *no
Pateman, Carole. "Women and Consent." *Political Theory* 8, no. 2 (1980): 149-68. *maybe

October 19

Montesquieu, *Persian Letters*

Kessler, Sanford. "Religion & Liberalism in Montesquieu's Persian Letters." *Polity* (1983): 380-96.

Crisafulli, Alessandro. "Montesquieu's Story of the Troglodytes: Its Background, Meaning, and Significance." *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 58, no. 2 (1943): 372-92.

October 26

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

Krause, Sharon. "The Uncertain Inevitability of Decline in Montesquieu." *Political Theory* 30, no. 5 (2002): 702-27.

Boesche, Roger. "Fearing Monarchs and Merchants: Montesquieu's Two Theories of Despotism." *Political Research Quarterly* 43, no. 4 (1990): 741-61.

Robin, Corey. "Reflections on Fear: Montesquieu in Retrieval." *American Political Science Review* 94, no. 2 (2000): 347-60. No

November 2

Rousseau, *Discourse on Arts and Sciences, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality*

Scott, John. "The Theodicy of the Second Discourse: The "Pure State of Nature" and Rousseau's Political Thought." *The American Political Science Review* 86, no. 3 (1992): 696-711. NO!

Boyd, Richard. "Pity's Pathologies Portrayed: Rousseau and the Limits of Democratic Compassion." *Political Theory* 32, no. 4 (2004): 519.

Strauss, Leo. "On the Intention of Rousseau." *Social Research* 14, no. 4 (1947): 455-87.

November 9

Rousseau, *The Social Contract, Discourse on Political Economy*

Sreenivasan, Gopal. "What is the General Will?" *The Philosophical Review* 109, no. 4 (2000): 545-81.

Riley, Patrick. "A Possible Explanation of Rousseau's General Will." *the American Political Science Review* 64, no. 1 (1970): 86-97.

Shklar, Judith. "Rousseau's Two Models: Sparta and the Age of Gold." *Political Science Quarterly* 81, no. 1 (1966): 25-51.

November 16

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

Grant, Ruth. "Integrity and Politics: An Alternative Reading of Rousseau." *Political Theory* 22, no. 3 (1994): 414-43.

Marks, Jonathan. "The Savage Pattern: The Unity of Rousseau's Thought Revisited." *Polity* 31, no. 1 (1998): 75-105.

Weiss, Penny, and Harper, Anne. "Rousseau's Political Defense of the Sex-Role Family."

Hypatia 5, no. 3 (1990): 90-109.

November 23

Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 3-92, 108-110, 118-125, 144-51, 160-63, 215-18

J. G. A. Pocock, "The Political Economy of Burke's Analysis of the French Revolution," *Historical Journal* 25 (1982), 331-349.

Boyd, Richard. "'The Unsteady and Precarious Contribution of Individuals': Edmund Burke's Defense of Civil Society." *The Review of Politics* 61, no. 03 (2009): 465-92.

Herzog, Don. "Puzzling Through Burke," *Political Theory* 19 (1991), 336-363.

November 30*

Interpretations

Leo Strauss, "Persecution and the Art of Writing," in *Persecution and the Art of Writing* (Glencoe, Ill: Free Press, 1952), 22-37.

Quentin Skinner, "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas" *History and Theory* 8 (1969), 3-53.

Siep Stuurman, "The Canon of the History of Political Thought: Its Critique and a Proposed Alternative," *History and Theory* 39 (2000), 147-166.

December 13

Last day take home exam can be due