**Y382: Modern Political Thought**

Indiana University, Summer 2015

MWTR 10:20-12:10, Ballantine 247

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**Course Description**

This course is a survey of some key thinkers in modern political thought. The canon of Western political thought is extensive, but the primary texts that will be covered—Machiavelli’s *Prince*, Hobbes’ *Leviathan*, Locke’s *Second Treatise of Civil Government*, Rousseau’s *Social Contract*, and Hamilton, Madison, and Jay’s *Federalist*—address crucial questions that continue to resonate today. Familiar concepts in today’s political discourse, including “democracy”, “republic”, and “liberty” all have had their histories shaped by the contributions of these texts. Focusing on them will provide a thorough introduction and overview of the major themes in modern political thought, as well as encourage students to think critically about the evolution and continuing relevance of these ideas in the present context.

**Requirements**

**Participation:** Most classes will be conducted as a mix of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to regularly participate in class in order to receive full participation credit. I will circulate a series of questions for each book that you should be thinking through while doing the reading. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings in a constructive and critical manner.

The use of cell phones in class is prohibited. Use of a laptop for any other purpose not related to the class will result in a 1-point deduction of the final participation grade. I reserve the right to prohibit the use of laptops at a later point in the semester.

**Assignments**: Students are required to write 5 weekly responses (excluding the first week) to the readings that will be **due every Monday** at the beginning of class. Responses (2-3 double spaced pages) should address one of the questions circulated for class discussion. Do not merely summarize the reading, and avoid excessively broad generalizations. The best response papers engage closely with the authors’ arguments, provide textual evidence, and consider alternative viewpoints.

Keep in mind that when you use other sources, you must cite them properly. Failure to do so will be dealt with in accordance with the IU Code of Student Conduct.

Aside from the daily readings and weekly responses, the course workload will consist of two exams (Midterm and Final). The Midterm and Final exams will consist of 5 short answer questions, which you will be given the full class period to complete.

**Attendance:** Attendance is expected for all class meetings and will be taken every day. Since this is a summer session course, our meeting times are very condensed and each class will cover a large portion of material. Missing even one class in this instance can put you significantly behind.

Students must notify the instructor prior to their absence if they hope for it to be excused. If you need to miss class and know about this absence ahead of time, or if you miss a class because of illness, please let me know as soon as possible (at least sending an email before class). I will work to help bring students up to speed on any missed material. If you have to miss a class either due to illness or another academic commitment, you must provide written documentation such as a doctor’s or administrative note.

Unexcused absences will result in a deduction from the final participation grade.

Students are expected to arrive to class in a prompt fashion. Regular lateness to class will affect your grade. Being late to class twice (10 minutes or more) will result in a 1-point deduction from the final grade.

**Readings**

This is a class heavily based on the reading and analysis of texts. Students are expected to complete the required readings before coming to class. Please always bring the relevant books to class.

You are required to purchase the following editions of the texts we’ll be studying. They are available from the IU Bookstore:

Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Cambridge)

Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Cambridge)

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)

Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings* (Hackett)

Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, *The Federalist* (Penguin)

**E-mail/Communication**

I will be using the IU Oncourse system to post the syllabus, readings, and grades. Please let me know if you are having any trouble using and accessing this system. If you need to communicate, please use e-mail and not Oncourse.

I am available to answer question both by email and in person during office hours. Email is a form of professional communication, and you should adopt practices now that you will use in your future career. I tend to respond to emails quickly, but if I have not addressed your question by the next class period, please ask me in person.

I will do my best to meet with students in order to answer any questions they may have about the class. Office hours will be held twice a week at regular times, but if you cannot make it then, let me know and we will try to arrange an alternate time.

**Grading**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following rubric:

Class Attendance and Participation: 25%

Midterm: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Responses (5 total, 5% each): 25%

Letter Grades are as follows:

97.0+ = A+ 93.0-96.9 = A 90.0-92.9 = A- 87.0-89.9 = B+

83.0-86.9 = B 80.0-82.9 = B- 77.0-79.9 = C+ 73.0-76.9 = C

70.0-72.9 = C- 67.0-69.9 = D+ 63.0-66.9 = D 60.0-62.9 = D-

Below 60 = F

If you disagree with your grades on an assignment or would like to discuss it further, I would be happy to do so. If you would like me to adjust your grade, you need to explain why, and must approach me outside of normal class time.

**Academic Honesty**

As a student at IU, you are expected to adhere to the standards and policies detailed in the *[Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduc](http://www.iu.edu/~code/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)t* (*Code*). When you submit an assignment with your name on it, you are signifying that the work contained therein is all yours, unless otherwise cited or referenced. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged. If you are unsure about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or exam, be sure to seek clarification beforehand. All suspected violations of the *Code* will be handled according to University policies. Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment, reduction in your final course grade, a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities, and must include a report to the Dean of Students, who may impose additional disciplinary sanctions.

**Students with Disabilities**

Any students with a disability will be accorded any additional assistance and/or time for completing assignments and exams. Students requesting disability related assistance must provide documentation establishing the presence of a substantially limiting condition(s) and describing its current impact and be registered with the Office of Disability Services for Students (<http://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/disability-services-students/index.shtml>). Please let me know if you fall into this category and will require any assistance.

**Class Schedule**

**Week 1**

* Monday, June 22: Course introduction (no reading)
* Tuesday, June 23: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Introductory Letter, Ch. 1-9
* Wednesday, June 24: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 10-18
* Thursday, June 25: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 19-26

**Week 2**

* Monday, June 29: Hobbes*, Leviathan*, Ch. 1, 5, 6, 11
* Tuesday, June 30: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Ch. 13-16
* Wednesday, July 1: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Ch. 17-19, 21, 24
* Thursday, July 2: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Ch. 26, 29, 30, 43, 46

**Week 3**

* Monday, July 6: Locke*, Second Treatise*, Ch. 1-5
* Tuesday, July 7: Locke*, Second Treatise*, Ch. 7-10
* Wednesday, July 8: Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 11-14
* Thursday, July 9: Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 15-19

**Week 4**

* Monday, July 13: Midterm Exam
* Tuesday, July 14: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book I, Ch. 1-9
* Wednesday, July 15: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book II, Ch. 1-10
* Thursday, July 16: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book III, Ch. 1-2, 15-16

**Week 5**

* Monday, July 20: *The Federalist*, No. 1, 6, 9, 10, 14
* Tuesday, July 21: *The Federalist*, No. 23, 37, 39, 43
* Wednesday, July 22: *The Federalist*, No. 48-51, 55
* Thursday, July 23: *The Federalist,* No. 63, 70, 85

**Week 6**

* Monday, July 27: Constant, ‘The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns’ <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdfs/constant1819.pdf>
* Tuesday, July 28: Marx and Engels, ‘Manifesto of the Communist Party,’ Preamble, Parts I-II: <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>
* Wednesday, July 29: Review session and course summary (no reading)
* Thursday, July 30: In-class Final Exam