

MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Government 2210

Spring 2019

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Office Hours:
MTW 4:30-5:30
or by appt.

This course is a survey of modern political philosophy beginning with Machiavelli, running through the social contract tradition as elaborated by Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, and concluding with the idealist and progressive philosophy of Kant. Among the topics we will be considering are: the overthrow of the classical horizon, the movement of human will or freedom to the center of political thought, the foundations of liberalism, the origin and meaning of rights, the relationship between freedom and equality, the role of democracy, the rise of history, and the belief in human progress.

Books (available for purchase at <https://bowdoin.ecampus.com/>)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*. Translated by Harvey Mansfield. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 1985.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*. Edited by Richard Tuck. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*. Edited by Peter Laslett. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*. Edited by John Scott. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Immanuel Kant, *Political Writings*. Edited by Hans Reiss. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Requirements

1. Regular and active class participation (10% of grade). More than five unexcused absences will result in failure of the class.
2. Three analytic papers, approximately 6-8 pages in length, based on assigned reading (70%). All papers must be completed in order to pass the course.
3. Comprehensive final exam (20%).

Jan. 28	<i>Prince</i> , Dedictory Letter and chaps. 1-6; Letter to Vettori (Appendix)
Jan. 30	chaps. 7-14
Feb. 4	chaps. 15-21
Feb. 6	chaps. 22-26; selections from <i>The Discourses</i> (Blackboard)
Feb. 11	<i>Leviathan</i> , Intro. (pp. 9-11), chaps. 6, 10
Feb. 13	chaps. 11, 12 (pp. 75-78), 13
Feb. 18	chaps. 14-15
Feb. 20	chaps. 17-19
Feb. 25	chaps. 20-21, 30 (pp. 231-41), and 31 (p. 254)
Feb. 27	<i>Second Treatise</i> , chaps. 1-4 (pp. 267-85)
March 4	chaps. 5-6
March 6	chaps. 7-9
March 9-24	Spring Break
March 25	<i>Second Treatise</i> , chaps. 10-14
March 27	chap. 19 (pp. 406-18, 426-28); Hume, "Of the Original Contract" (Blackboard)
April 1	<i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> , pp. 51-73 (top) plus notes
April 3	pp. 73-90 plus notes
April 8	pp. 91-117 plus notes; Epistle Dedicatory (pp. 41-50)
April 10	<i>Social Contract</i> , Bk. I
April 15	Bk. II, chaps. 1-6
April 17	Bk. II, chaps. 7-12; Bk. IV, chaps. 1-2
April 22	Bk. III, chaps. 1-7, 9-18; Bk. IV, chap. 8
April 24	<i>Kant's Political Writings</i> , "Conjectures on the Beginning of Human History" (pp. 221-36)
April 29	"Idea for a Universal History" (pp. 41-53); "What Is Enlightenment?" (pp. 54-60)
May 1	"Theory and Practice" (pp. 61-63, 73-92)
May 6	"Perpetual Peace," pp. 93-115
May 8	pp. 116-30

Writing Assignments and Exams

Feb. 15	Paper on Machiavelli due
March 8	Paper on Hobbes due (option 1)
April 5	Paper on Locke due (option 2)
April 26	Paper on Rousseau due
May 17	Final exam