

History of Political Thought: Early Modern

Semester:	Fall 2021
ECTS Credits:	6
Hours/week:	90 + 90 min
Language:	English
Instructor:	Cole Simmons, PhD
Meeting:	Tues: 1:00-2:30 Classroom A Thur: 9:00-10:30 Classroom A

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CONTENT

Ancient political philosophy appeared to speak with one voice when it came to the question of virtue and vice, among other things. We distinguish ancient from modern political philosophy because there appears to be a different orientation for the modern philosophers than the ancient. At the very least, the modern philosophers themselves claim superiority over the ancient philosophers. We will evaluate this claim to superiority as we attempt to gain an understanding of the basic view set forth by some of modern political philosophy's most notable men: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, & Rousseau.

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be 3 papers, each worth 25% of your grade. The last 25% is for attendance and participation.

Papers: 1,000 - 1,500 words; APA or MLA formatting.

Timeliness is of essence in this course.

Assignments have to be uploaded via Google Classroom by the due date. **Late submissions will incur grade penalty.**

Within 24 hours -10%,

1 to 3 days - 20%

4 to 7 days - 50%

More than a week late - 0%

Grading scale

A – 100-93%,

B – 92-84%,

C – 83-74%,

D – 73-63%,

E – 62-51%,

Fx – 50-0%.

Four or more absences result automatically in Fx.

Regular attendance of all classes is of crucial importance in this course. Much of the explanation and implementation of what we learn towards your research project will take place in the seminars and skipping them will have impact on the quality of your research proposal. As per BISLA policy, four absences are permitted during the semester (these are to be reserved for cases of illness or family emergency). Any more absences result in failing the course. Do inform me prior to missing a class.

During this semester, it is essential that we remain safe. Thus, you are expected to stay at home and inform me when you have a raised temperature, feel short of breath, exhausted, experience upset stomach, etc. Contact the NCIZ hotline to arrange for testing. Check <https://korona.gov.sk/en/> for latest information and contact numbers.

Plagiarism policy

Plagiarism will automatically result in an Fx and may be subject to disciplinary proceeding and penalties stipulated in Disciplinary Code (up to expulsion).

All assignments at BISLA should be: (a) based on *your* reading of the sources, (b) based on *your analysis* of the sources, and (c) written by you. All used sources have to be properly referenced in the text as well as in the bibliography of your papers. You may also reference lectures and class discussions—there is a way to reference everything.

Definition of plagiarism: If you use a statement, argument or idea from someone without giving them credit, you are guilty of plagiarism. You can avoid plagiarism by citing your source(s).

You must cite a source in two cases: first, whenever you are using the exact wording of the source (in this case, enclose the words in quotation marks; if you add words to the quotation, use square brackets) and, second, whenever you are summarizing or paraphrasing a statement, argument, idea or narrative from the source. If you do not do this, you are guilty of plagiarism. BISLA is using an APA style of referencing—you will find an APA manual on your Google Classroom page. Also, you can consult OWL Purdue Writing lab online or the APA blog for excellent tips and guidance.

APA formatting and style guide:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Required literature

READER which includes excerpts from:

- Mansfield HC, Machiavelli N. *Machiavelli's The Prince*. University of Chicago Press; 1985.
- Hobbes, Thomas, and Richard Tuck. 1996. *Leviathan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Locke, John, and C. B. Macpherson. 1980. *Second treatise of government*. Indianapolis, Ind: Hackett Pub. Co.
- Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, and Victor Gourevitch. 1997. *The social contract, and other later political writings*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

TOPICS and SCHEDULE SUMMARY

Early Modern Reading Schedule

The Prince

September 13 - 17

- Introduction to Course & Machiavelli
- Dedicatory Letter through chapter 3

September 20 - 24

- Chapters 4 -7
- Chapters 8-12

September 27 - October 1

- Chapters 13-18
- Chapters 19-20

October 4 - 8

- Chapters 21-26
- Selections from Machiavelli's *Art of War*

October 11 - 15

- **Introduction to Hobbes' *Leviathan***
- Dedicatory Letter – chapter 3

October 18 - 22

- Chapters 12-13
- Chapters 14-15 **First Paper Due**

October 25 - 29

- Chapters 17-19
- Chapters 20, 21, & 24

November 1 - 5 Reading Week

November 8 - 12

- Chapters 26 & 29
- Chapters 30 & 46

November 15 - 19

- Review and Conclusion
- **Introduction to Locke and Liberal Democracy *Second Treatise* chs. 2 and 5.**

November 22 - 26

- Locke, *Second Treatise* chs 6 - 8
- Locke, *Second Treatise* chs 9-10 and 19. **Second Paper Due**

November 29 - December 3

- Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (first ½)
- Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (second ½)

December 6 - 10

- Rousseau, *First Discourse* (first ½)

- Rousseau, *First Discourse* (second ½)

December 13 - 17

- Course Review
- Course Review **Third Paper Due**