

**POL 460 H 1 (S) L0101/POL 2006 H 1 (S): Studies in Modern Political Theory
(Machiavelli's Political Thought) Winter Term, 2018**

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Description

Our theme this semester is the highly unusual republicanism of Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy*. We begin by focusing on Machiavelli's relationship to the classical republican tradition, both as represented in the texts of the ancient historians (Polybius, Livy, Sallust, Tacitus, and others) and as reconstituted by Machiavelli's contemporaries in the Italian Renaissance. Our focus on this topic is prompted by the literary form of Machiavelli's work, which is ostensibly a commentary on the first 10 books of Livy's *History*. We will find, however, that Machiavelli innovated within, reinvented, and to some extent even repudiated, the classical republican tradition, on his way to establishing a newly modern republican paradigm. Hence, our task is to lay bare the theoretical challenges and disconcerting questions that Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy* poses to subsequent, including contemporary, republican theory.

Texts

Mansfield, Harvey C. and Nathan Tarcov (trans.). 1996. *Niccolò Machiavelli. Discourses on Livy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

This text is available at the Bob Miller Book Room, 180 Bloor St. West. Loeb translations of the ancient historians can be found online at the Perseus website (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection.jsp?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>); we will refer to these as necessary.

Format, Requirements, and Marking Scheme

Our study of Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy* will be conducted as a seminar in which the instructor lectures and initiates discussion and students participate actively. Active participation requires considerable time and effort in preparing for class. You should plan to read the *Discourses on Livy* carefully, taking notes as you read, marking your texts, and returning again and again to difficult or salient passages. Because the reading and the in-class sessions will be demanding, it is important that you sign up only after realistically assessing whether your schedule this semester will permit you to do the required work. **Class participation will count for 15% of the final mark.**

The marking scheme for the undergraduate course will be as follows: one essay of 2000 words will be due on **February 16** (35% of the final mark), and a second essay of 3500 words will be due on **April 6** by noon (50% of the final mark). These marks are in addition to the class participation mark (15%). In addition to making an original and well-structured argument, each paper must also engage substantively with the secondary

literature – in the first paper, you will be required to cite and engage with at least two secondary sources, at least one of which must be a book; in the second paper, you will be required to cite at least four secondary sources, at least two of which must be books.

The marking scheme for the graduate course will be different. Graduate students may choose one of the following options:

(1) one essay of 2500 words will be due on **February 16** (35% of the final mark), and a second essay of 4000 words will be due on **April 6** by noon (50% of the final mark). These marks are in addition to the class participation mark (15%). In addition to making an original and well-structured argument, each paper must also engage substantively with the secondary literature – in the first paper, you will be required to cite and engage with at least two secondary sources, at least one of which must be a book; in the second paper, you will be required to cite at least five secondary sources, at least two of which must be books.

(2) One essay of 6000 words, due on **April 6** by noon (85% of the final mark). This mark will be in addition to the class participation mark (15%). In addition to making an original and well-structured argument, your paper must also engage substantively with the secondary literature; hence, you will be required to cite and engage with at least seven secondary sources, at least two of which must be books.

The papers should be sent to me at Ryan.Balot@utoronto.ca. I will suggest paper topics well in advance of the deadlines, but you should feel free to construct your own topics provided that you discuss the topics with me.

I will penalize tardiness by subtracting 1% per day of lateness. Students are advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their essays and assignments before turning them in to me. These should be kept at least until the marked assignments have been returned. You are of course responsible for familiarizing yourself with the university's policy on plagiarism. In short, to comply with the university's code regarding academic honesty, you must write your papers specifically for this class; you should not borrow material from another class; and you should not use another person's words or ideas without attribution, whether those words or ideas come from conversations, the internet, or printed materials. If you are in doubt about whether you are committing plagiarism, feel free to ask me, but a good rule of thumb is that if you are wondering whether you might be committing plagiarism, you should cite a source.

Bibliography (on reserve in Robarts Library)

Contextual Approaches (mostly "Cambridge School")

Baron, Hans. 1966. *The Crisis of the Early Italian Renaissance: Civic Humanism and Republican Liberty in an Age of Classicism and Tyranny*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Bock, G., Q. Skinner, and M. Viroli (eds). 1990. *Machiavelli and Republicanism*.

- Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hörnqvist, Mikael. 2004. *Machiavelli and Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- McCormick, John. 2001. "Machiavellian Democracy: Controlling Elites with Ferocious Populism." *APSR* 95.2: 297-314.
- Pocock, J.G.A. 1975. *The Machiavellian Moment: Florentine Political Thought and the Atlantic Republican Tradition*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
[to be consulted with Sullivan, Vickie B. 1992. "Machiavelli's Momentary 'Machiavellian Moment': A Reconsideration of Pocock's Treatment of the Discourses." *Political Theory* 20.2: 309-318.]
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- Skinner, Q. 1981. *Machiavelli*. New York: Hill and Wang.
- Viroli, M. 1998. *Machiavelli*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Critics of the "Cambridge School" Contextual Approach

- McCormick, John. 2003. "Machiavelli against Republicanism: On the Cambridge School's Guicciardinian Moments." *Political Theory* 31.5: 615-643. [This might be thought of as a criticism in name only; cf. McCormick 2001, above.]
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- Tarcov, Nathan. 1982. "Quentin Skinner's Method and Machiavelli's Prince." *Ethics* 92: 692-709.
- Taylor, Charles. 1987. "The Hermeneutics of Conflict." In J. Tully (ed), *Meaning and Context: Quentin Skinner and His Critics* (Cambridge: Polity Press), 218-228.]

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- Lefort, Claude. 1972. *Le travail de l'oeuvre Machiavel*. Paris: Gallimard.
- Rahe, Paul A. 2000. "Situating Machiavelli." In J. Hankins (ed), *Renaissance Civic Humanism: Reappraisals and Reflections*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rahe, Paul A. 2008. *Against Throne and Altar: Machiavelli and Political Theory under the English Republic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

"Straussian" Approaches

- Mansfield, Harvey C., Jr. 1996. *Machiavelli's Virtue*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
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- Sullivan, Vickie B. 1996. *Machiavelli's Three Romes: Religion, Human Liberty, and*

Politics Reformed. DeKalb, Ill: Northern Illinois University Press.

Studies of Specific Aspects of Machiavellian Political Theory

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Hullung, Mark. 1983. *Citizen Machiavelli.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Parel, Anthony J. 1992. *The Machiavellian Cosmos.* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Vatter, Miguel E. 2000. *Between Form and Event: Machiavelli's Theory of Political Freedom.* Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic.

Republicanism

Pettit, Philip. 1997. *Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rahe, Paul A. 1992. *Republics Ancient and Modern: Classical Republicanism and the American Revolution.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

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Viroli, Maurizio. 2002. *Republicanism.* New York: Hill and Wang.

Studies of Livy

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Luce, T.J. 1977. *Livy: The Composition of His History.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.