

**POL485H1S – Machiavelli**  
University of Toronto  
Department of Political Science  
Spring 2023

**Instructor:** Amanda Arulanandam, Ph.D. Candidate  
**Class:** Tuesday 10am-12noon, UC67  
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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the political thought of Renaissance writer Niccolò Machiavelli by studying his magnum opus, *The Discourses on Livy*. Machiavelli is one of the most significant political theorists to provide a conception of politics that is distinctly modern. In this course, we will consider how Machiavelli conceptualizes modern politics, and how this conceptualization differs from previous notions of politics. We will pay particular attention to Machiavelli's understanding of republics, and how it compares and contrasts with other forms of republicanism. We will also consider Machiavelli's thought more broadly, including his radical conception of political leadership, populism, religion, freedom, war, and history.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

**Machiavelli, Niccolò. *Discourses on Livy*. Trans. Harvey C. Mansfield and Nathan Tarcov. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.**

The text is available at the **University of Toronto Bookstore** in the Koffler Student Centre. The text is also available from other sellers, including **Amazon** and the **University of Chicago Press** website. Please make sure to acquire the correct translation. To facilitate discussions, other editions will not be accepted.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

First Essay	35%
Second Essay	50%
Attendance and Participation in Class	15%

## **ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION**

### **1. First essay**

A 2000-word essay, due **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**. Topics will be provided in advance. You may propose your topic, but you will need to discuss it with me in advance.

## 2. Second Essay

A 3000-word essay, due **April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. This essay will require you to engage in the secondary literature; you must cite *at least* 3 academic sources, including at least 1 academic book. Topics will be provided in advance. You may propose your own topic, but you will need to discuss it with me in advance.

## 3. Attendance and Participation in Class

Attendance and participation marks require you to show up regularly to class with your copy of the text. It also requires you to make regular, thoughtful contributions. To do this effectively, you should do the readings in advance of the class, and take careful notes as you read.

## COURSE GUIDELINES

### 1. Seminars

- a. **Readings:** You **must** do the assigned readings before coming to class each week. Your success in the class will be directly tied to this commitment. Please make sure you are willing to accept the reading load before you sign up for the course.
- b. **Classroom Etiquette:** In order to create a respectful classroom environment, please be considerate of others. It is important that you try to arrive on time, have all your necessary materials, put away distractions, and give your full attention to the class. If you have any questions or concerns about this issue, please let me know.

### 2. Assignments

- a. No extensions or make-ups will be granted on any assignment without completion of the Absence Declaration Form. Information regarding the form can be found here: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/covid19-artsci-student-faqs#fw2021-absence-declaration-accordion-5>. If you require an extension, please inform me and complete the form **as soon as possible**.
- b. Unexcused late essays will be penalized 3% plus 2% per calendar day of lateness.
- c. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the university's policy on plagiarism, which will be strictly enforced. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that may cost you a course or even your career as student. Our policy is zero-tolerance. Please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism on Quercus or visit <https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>. When it comes to plagiarism, simply **DON'T DO IT**. **“Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com**

service are described on the Turnitin.com web site”. Turnitin will flag suspicious assignments and teacher assistants have a keen eye to detect academic misconduct. If you are not sure that you are committing plagiarism, ask your T.A. or the instructor for clarification.

- d. Appeals must be accompanied by a half-page explanation that states the reasons why you are contesting the grade. Appeals must be submitted to the instructor no later than two weeks after you received your graded assignment. Please note that a grade appeal may result in a higher or lower grade, or the grade may not change. After two weeks, a grade re-evaluation will not be considered without good cause and formal documentation.

## STUDENT RESOURCES

### 1. Writing Resources:

- Writing Centers: <http://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/>
- Advice on Academic Writing: <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/>
- Grammar Reference: William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. New York: Pearson Longman, 2009.
- Citation Guide: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/resources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html)

### 2. Accessibility Services: If you have an accessibility need, contact accessibility services as soon as possible:

- Website: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/>.
- E-mail: ([accessibility.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@utoronto.ca))
- Phone: (416-978-8060).

### 3. If you are experiencing personal challenges that may affect your ability to succeed in this course, please speak to your instructor and/or academic advisor as soon as possible.

## SECONDARY RESOURCES

*This list of secondary sources is not exhaustive, but it will get you started*

- Balot, Ryan; Trochimchuk, Stephen. “The Many and the Few: On Machiavelli’s ‘Democratic Moment’”. *The Review of Politics*, Vol. 74(4), 2012: 559-588.
- Baron, Hans. *The Crisis of the Early Italian Renaissance: Civic Humanism and Republican Liberty in an Age of Classicism and Tyranny*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1966.
- Bock, Gisela; Skinner, Quentin; Viroli, Maurizio (eds.). *Machiavelli and Republicanism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

- Clarke, Michelle T. *Machiavelli's Florentine Republic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Lefort, Claude. *Le travail de l'oeuvre Machiavel*. Paris: Gallimard, 1972.
- Mansfield, Harvey C. *Machiavelli's Virtue*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.
- Mansfield, Harvey C. *Machiavelli's New Modes and Orders: A Study of the Discourses on Livy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979.
- McCormick, John P. *Machiavellian Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Pedullà, Gabriele. *Machiavelli in Tumult: The Discourses on Livy and the Origin of Political Conflictualism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Pettit, Philip. *Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Pocock, J.G.A. *The Machiavellian Moment: Florentine Political Thought and the Atlantic Republican Tradition*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975.
- Rahe, Paul A. *Against Throne and Altar: Machiavelli and Political Theory under the English Republic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Skinner, Quentin. *Machiavelli*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1981.
- Viroli, Maurizio. *Machiavelli*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Strauss, Leo. *Thoughts on Machiavelli*. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1958.
- Sullivan, Vickie B. *Machiavelli's Three Romes: Religion, Human Liberty, and Politics Reformed*. DeKalb, Ill: Northern Illinois University Press, 1996.
- Vatter, Miguel E. *Between Form and Event: Machiavelli's Theory of Political Freedom*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic, 2000.
- Winter, Yves. *Machiavelli and the Orders of Violence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Zuckert, Catherine H. *Machiavelli's Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017.