

Modern Political Theory
IHST 283-IH2A
Spring 2014

When: Wednesdays 9-11:45PM
Where: Bunting 480
Professor: Firmin DeBrabander
Office: Bunting 406
Office Hours: Mondays 10-12; also by appointment

Course Description:

In this course we will study some of the major works in Western political thought, specifically those that have prefigured, influenced, guided—and reacted to—liberal democracy, the political model of the United States, and now, numerous other nations in the industrial world. We will consider the virtues of liberal democracy, especially how its original authors perceived them. We will also look at the numerous challenges our model of government faces, challenges anticipated and unanticipated by its early theorists. We should also consider some larger issues and principles regarding the nature of power as such, and how it should be wielded and employed.

Required Texts (available at MICA bookstore):

The Prince, Machiavelli (Hackett)
Discourses on Livy, Machiavelli (Penguin Classics)
Leviathan, Hobbes (Norton)
Second Treatise of Government, Locke (Wiley)
Social Contract, Rousseau (Oxford)

Requirements:

There will be 1) two papers (4-6 pages each) due during the course of the semester. Their due dates are indicated on the course schedule. I will provide topics for these papers, but you may suggest your own topics, too, provided you blow them by me first. There will also be 2) a final research paper (6-8 pages). I will provide instructions for that at a later date. 3) Class participation constitutes a final component of your grade in this class. You are expected to read assignments carefully ahead of each class, and contribute to discussions of the readings. Occasionally, I will open class with a brief in-class written reflection on the reading assignment. These written reflections are primarily intended to get your intellectual juices flowing, but also indicate to me that—and how closely—you are doing the readings.

Grade distribution:

2 papers---	50% (25% each)
Final paper ---	30%
Class Participation (incl. pop quizzes)---	20%

Attendance Policy:

As we only meet 15 times this semester, it is crucially important that you attend all classes. For two or more unexcused absences, I will deduct 5 points for each from your final grade. If you will be absent due to illness or family emergency, I can excuse you from class if you provide written notice.

Institutional Policies:

Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Learning Resource Center at 410-225-2416, in Bunting 458, to establish eligibility and coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of faculty and students to practice health and safety guidelines relevant to their individual activities, processes, and to review MICA's Emergency Action Plan and attend EHS training. It is each faculty member's responsibility to coordinate with the EHS Office to ensure that all risks associated with their class activities are identified and to assure that their respective classroom procedures mirror the EHS and Academic Department guidelines. Each of these policies and procedures must be followed by all students and faculty. Most importantly, faculty are to act in accordance with all safety compliance, state and federal, as employees of this college and are expected to act as examples of how to create art in a way to minimize risk, and reduce harm to themselves and the environment. Faculty must identify, within each art making process, and require personal protection equipment use, by each student for each class, when applicable. Students are required to purchase personal protection equipment appropriate to their major. Those students who do not have the proper personal protection equipment will not be permitted to attend class until safe measures and personal protection is in place.

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)

It is the responsibility of faculty and students to follow health and safety guidelines relevant to their individual activities, processes, and to review MICA's Emergency Action Plan and attend EHS training. It is each faculty member's responsibility to coordinate with the EHS Office to ensure that all risks associated with their class activities are identified and to assure that their respective classroom procedures mirror the EHS and Academic Department guidelines. Each of these policies and procedures must be followed by all students and faculty. Most importantly, faculty are to act in accordance with all safety compliance, state and federal, as employees of this college and are expected to act as examples of how to create art in a way to minimize risk, and reduce harm to themselves and the environment. Faculty must identify and require appropriate personal protective equipment for each art making process, for each student, in all of their classes, when applicable. Students are required to purchase personal protection equipment appropriate for their major. Those students who do not have the proper personal protection equipment will not be permitted to attend class until safe measures and personal protection are in place.

Plagiarism

Each discipline within the arts has specific and appropriate means for students to cite or acknowledge sources and the ideas and material of others used in their own work. Students have the responsibility to become familiar with such processes and to carefully follow their use in developing original work.

Policy

MICA will not tolerate plagiarism, which is defined as claiming authorship of, or using someone else's ideas or work without proper acknowledgment. Without proper attribution, a student may NOT replicate another's work, paraphrase another's ideas, or appropriate images in a manner that violates the specific rules against plagiarism in the student's department. In addition, students may not submit the same work for credit in more than one course without the explicit approval of the all of the instructors of the courses involved.

Consequences

When an instructor has evidence that a student has plagiarized work submitted for course credit, the instructor will confront the student and impose penalties that may include failing the course. In the case of a serious violation or repeated infractions from the same student, the instructor will report the infractions to the department chair. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the department chair may then report the student to the Office of Academic Affairs, which may choose to impose further penalties, including suspension or expulsion.

Intellectual History Learning Objectives:

Requirements in Intellectual history present the history of ideas in their development through and across cultures and historical periods. They focus on major intellectual movements in philosophy, religion, politics, economics, science and mathematics, art and literature, and their social and historical contexts. Intellectual history courses aim to

- Impart specific intellectual values: intellectual integrity and honesty
- Develop respect for the materials of historical inquiry
- Foster a capacity for dialogue with the past.
- Engender an understanding of good scholarly technique and practice.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1/22- Introduction

1/29- Rd. Machiavelli's *The Prince*, chs.1-10 (including the "Dedication")

2/5- Rd. Machiavelli's *The Prince*, chs. 14-26

2/12- Rd. Machiavelli's *Discourses*, pages 93-127; 153-164

2/19- **1st paper due**

2/26- Rd. Machiavelli's *Discourses*; pgs. 175-178; 238-257; 265-283

3/5- Rd. Hobbes' *Leviathan*, chs. 10-15.

3/12- Rd. Hobbes' *Leviathan*, chs. 17-21, and 29.

3/19- SPRING BREAK; no class

3/26- **2nd paper due; movie in class**

4/2- Rd. Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*, chapters I-V

4/9- Rd. Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*, chapters VII-IX, and XIX (up to section 229!)

4/16- Rd. Rousseau's, *Social Contract*, Book I: sections 1-8, and Book II: sections 1-10.

4/23- Rd. Rousseau's *Social Contract*, Book III: sections 1-4, 10-11; Book IV: 8.

4/30- Final Paper Conferences

5/7- Course Summary and Review; **Final papers due**