

POLSC345A: Western Political Thought III: Early Modern Political Thought
Department of History and Political Science
Ashland University
Spring 2018

Course Information

Time/Place: MWF 2:00-2:50pm, Andrews 104
Professor: Daniel Schillinger
Email: dschilli@ashland.edu
Office: Andrews 128
Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00am-12:30pm and by appointment

Course Content and Objectives

What is freedom? What is power? What is the modern state? What is the role of religion in political life? What is the relation of theory to practice? In this course, we will examine these perennial questions, among others, through careful examination of the political writings of Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke. In so doing, we aim not only to grasp these questions as questions, but also to articulate and to reflect on the philosophical foundations of specifically modern politics. We will immerse ourselves in our chosen texts; in fact, these texts require immersive reading, since they are as carefully written as they are philosophically rich. By reading and writing for this course, and by participating in class discussions, students will learn how to analyze and to interpret seminal texts of early modern political thought.

Required Texts

Please purchase personal copies of the following texts—for sale at the Ashland University Bookstore. You must purchase the editions specified below; they have been chosen advisedly.

- 1) Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*. 2nd ed. Translated by Harvey Mansfield. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.
- 2) Machiavelli, Niccolò. *Discourses on Livy*. Translated by Harvey Mansfield and Nathan Tarcov. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.
- 3) Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan, with selected variants from the Latin edition of 1668*. Edited by Edwin Curley. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994.
- 4) Locke, John. *Second Treatise of Government*. Edited by C.B. Macpherson. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980.
- 5) Locke, John. *A Letter Concerning Toleration*. Edited by James Tully. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983.

Course Expectations and Practices

By far the most important expectation and requirement for this course is that you read the assigned texts carefully and prior to class. You should also strive to attend every class session; there are no excused absences except in the event of a documented illness or emergency. Students who meet these expectations will have every chance of success. Although the syllabus features classic texts, we will raise and explore unique questions and themes; external sources cannot substitute for your participation in the course, and they may even lead you astray. During class, please try to discuss the texts in a spirit of questioning, openness, and respect. Energetic participation would be great! For my part, I promise to listen to your questions, thoughts, and concerns about the substance or the logistics of the course. Please do not hesitate to talk to me during office hours about anything pertaining to POLSC345.

Marking Scheme

1) Pre-draft Assignment #1 (due Feb. 9)	5 %
2) Essay #1 (1,500 words, due Feb. 23)	20 %
3) Pre-draft Assignment #2 (Apr. 6)	5 %
4) Essay #2 (2,200 words, due Apr. 20)	25 %
5) Final Exam	30 %
6) Attendance and Participation	15 %

Writing Assignments and Assessment Criteria

In preparation for each essay, you will complete a pre-draft assignment designed to guide you through part of the writing process and to sharpen your argument. The first pre-draft assignment provides an occasion for you to formulate a compelling and contestable thesis. The second pre-draft assignment will help you to locate evidence for your thesis and to build a coherent structure supported by clear transitions—key skills for the composition of a longer essay that incorporates secondary sources. Pre-draft topics will be distributed at the same time as the essay topics themselves.

Each essay that you write for this course should satisfy the following criteria:

- 1) The essay clearly and directly responds to the prompt.
- 2) The essay contains a thesis-driven argument and a coherent structure (rather than a mere summary of one or more texts, a list of facts, or an absence of structure altogether).
- 3) The essay displays careful engagement with the course materials through its analysis of textual evidence and key concepts.
- 4) The essay eschews basic errors and achieves a polished writing style.

The third of these criteria is the most important: your essay should put on display your careful and sustained engagement with the course materials. Even so, “A” essays will satisfy each criterion listed above by exhibiting mastery of both the course content and the elements of the academic essay. “B” essays will fall short of mastery while attaining competence. “C” essays will satisfy these criteria to a minimal extent. “D” essays will not meet these criteria, though

they will show some effort toward the composition of a solid paper. “F” essays will suggest an unacceptable lack of engagement and effort on this assignment and in the course in general. In addition, the essay should be written in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, and it should adhere to an accepted style of citation (e.g., Chicago). Please remember to submit your pre-draft and essay assignments at the beginning of class on the due-date. Finally, since the final exam will also take the form of an essay, these assessment criteria apply to it as well.

Academic Integrity

Please review Ashland University’s Academic Integrity Policy. I am serious about promoting academic integrity in this course. All suspected cases of willful plagiarism will be referred to the University’s Academic Integrity Board. It is the student’s responsibility to distinguish original argument from plagiarism—though of course it would be fine to approach me with questions. In short, when in doubt, cite a source!

Extensions and Lateness

No extensions or make-up examinations will be permitted in the absence of official documentation of a serious illness or an emergency submitted to me prior to the deadline. Late papers will be penalized three percent as soon as the deadline passes and an additional two percent for every day late. To be clear, a late paper will incur a penalty of five percent as soon as the deadline passes; a two percent penalty will be added to the initial five percent at the end of every subsequent day.

Tutoring and Academic Support

The following is a statement from the Tutoring Office. “The Tutoring office is a part of the Center for Academic Support on the 7th floor of the Library. We provide undergraduate on campus students with free peer tutoring in any of the undergraduate courses. We offer one-on-one tutoring, small study group, or drop-in help sessions. Please request tutoring by filling out the form on www.ashland.edu/tutor then click on Request a Tutor. Any questions: Denisia Stoops, Coordinator, dstoops@ashland.edu or 419-207-6779.”

Accessibility

I am committed to accessible and inclusive learning. The following is Ashland University’s statement on accessibility: “It is Ashland University’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please contact Disability Services at 419-289-5904, or send an email to dservices@ashland.edu. The Disability Services office and the course instructor will work together in order to establish accommodations, and to meet your learning needs.”

Writing Support

The following is a statement from the Ashland University Writing Center. “The Ashland University Writing Center is here to assist students with take-home writing projects in all disciplines. Students receive one-on-one attention from trained Undergraduate Writing Assistants and can use the writing center space for writing and group workshops. Appointments are available Monday-Wednesday from 9am-9pm and Thursday-Friday from 9am-5pm. Visit: <https://www.ashland.edu/administration/center-academic-support/university-writing-center> to schedule an appointment.”

Schedule of Readings

Unit 1: Princely Rule and Republican Citizenship: Machiavelli’s *The Prince* and *Discourses*

Week 1: Jan. 8 – 12

- M) Introduction
- W) Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Dedicatory Letter, Ch. 1-3
- F) Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 4-6

Week 2: Jan. 15 – 19

- M) NO CLASS: MLK DAY
- W) Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 7-10
- F) Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 11-14

Week 3: Jan. 22 – 26

- M) Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 15-18
- W) Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 19-24
- F) Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 25-26

Week 4: Jan. 29 – Feb. 2

- M) Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, Ded. Letter, Preface to Book 1, 1.1-1.6 (Rome)
- W) Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, 1.11-15, 25-27 (Religion)
- F) Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, 1.16-18, 29-30, 33-37, 55 (Corruption)

Week 5: Feb. 5 – 9

- M) Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, Preface to Book 2, 2.1-4, 6, 13 (Roman Warfare)
- W) Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, 2.22-23, 27-30 (Roman Prudence)
- F) Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, 3.1, 30-31, 49 (Re-founding; 1ST PRE-DRAFT DUE)

Week 6: Feb. 12 – 16

- M) Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, 3.6 (Conspiracy)
- W) Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, 3.12-14, 18-22 (Roman Leaders)
- F) Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, 3.33-39, 43, 46, 49 (Future Leaders)

Unit 2: The Political Theory of the Modern State: Hobbes’s *Leviathan*

Week 7: Feb. 19 – 23

- M) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Dedicatory Letter, Intro, 1.1-2

- W) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 1.3-5
- F) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 1.6-8 (FIRST ESSAY DUE)

Week 8: Feb. 26 – Mar. 2

- M) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 1.9-12
- W) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 1.13-14
- F) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 1.15-16, 2.17

Spring Break: March 5 – 9

M, W, F) NO CLASS

Week 9: Mar. 12 – 16

- M) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 2.18-20
- W) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 2.21
- F) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 2.22-24

Week 10: Mar. 19 – 23

- M) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 2.25-26
- W) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 2.27-28
- F) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 2.29-30

Week 11: Mar. 26 – 30

- M) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 2.31
- W) CLASS CANCELED
- F) NO CLASS: EASTER BREAK

Unit 3: Classical Liberalism: Locke's *Second Treatise and Letter Concerning Toleration*

Week 12: Apr. 2 – 6

- M) NO CLASS: EASTER BREAK
- W) Locke, *Second Treatise*, Preface, Ch. 1-4
- F) Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 5 (SECOND PRE-DRAFT DUE)

Week 13: Apr. 9 – 13

- M) Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 6-7
- W) Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 8-9
- F) Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 10-12

Week 14: Apr. 16 – 20

- M) Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 13-15
- W) Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 16-18
- F) Locke, *Second Treatise*, Ch. 19 (SECOND ESSAY DUE)

Week 15: Apr. 23 – 27

- M) Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*, pp. 21-32
- W) Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*, pp. 32-45
- F) Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*, pp. 45-58