Goals
The first goal of the course is to focus upon what are arguably Machiavelli’s two most important works, *The Prince* and the *Discourses on Livy*. What are these texts about? From these we will develop an understanding of Machiavelli’s concepts and frameworks for thinking about politics. The second goal of the course is to use Machiavelli to help us think about politics today, in our own lives. We will use the other works to help us toward this end.

All texts are exclusively available at Mary Jane Books at 215 Western Ave, Albany, NY 12203 (the corner of Western Ave and Quail St.):


ISBN: 0-226-50044-6

ISBN: 978-1-78032-049-6


*There may at some point be a small course packet available at Mary Jane Books, but I may also put additional articles up on Blackboard.*
Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined in the Undergraduate Bulletin as “presenting as one’s own work the work of another person (for example, the words, ideas, information, data, evidence, organizing principles, or style of presentation of someone else). Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment, submission of another student’s work as one’s own, the purchase of prepared research or completed papers or projects, and the unacknowledged use of research sources gathered by someone else. Failure to indicate accurately the extent and precise nature of one’s reliance on other sources is also a form of plagiarism. The student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of sources, the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic, scholarly, or creative indebtedness, and the consequences for violating University regulations.

Examples of plagiarism include: failure to acknowledge the source(s) of even a few phrases, sentences, or paragraphs; failure to acknowledge a quotation or paraphrase of paragraph-length sections of a paper; failure to acknowledge the source(s) of a major idea or the source(s) for an ordering principle central to the paper’s or project’s structure; failure to acknowledge the source (quoted, paraphrased, or summarized) of major sections or passages in the paper or project; the unacknowledged use of several major ideas or extensive reliance on another person’s data, evidence, or critical method; submitting as one’s own work, work borrowed, stolen, or purchased from someone else.” 1

It goes without saying. Do not plagiarize. Students doing so will be referred to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Grades and Assignments
First Assignment: 15%
Second Assignment: 20%
Third Assignment: 25%
Quizzes: 20%
Participation: 20%

Writing Assignments
Throughout the semester we will be discussing a number of themes, problems, and issues about which you will be expected to develop an informed opinion. The goal is to reflect upon your stance and utilize course materials to make an argument about what issues are at stake in the question asked.

Quizzes
Throughout the semester quizzes will be given at the beginning of many classes to be sure that everyone has completed the reading. This is a necessity because without having read, there can be no effective discussion, much less learning. Late (on the day of a quiz): if you arrive after the quiz has begun, you will still have to finish at the same time as everyone else. If you arrive after the quiz has already been collected, you receive a zero for that quiz. Absent (on the day of a quiz): Unexcused: will receive a zero for that day’s quiz.

1 http://www.albany.edu/writing/writers_info/plagiarism.html
Excused: will have the opportunity to make up the quiz within one week of that absence.

Important Miscellany
The syllabus reflects a certain pacing and flow of the material with which we will be engaged. If that pacing and flow changes, so will the syllabus. Changes will be made to the syllabus if and when necessary.

Assignment #1—DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, TUESDAY 2/4.
2-3 FULL pages, typed, double spaced, times new roman, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, stapled.
What kind of society do we have?
Specifically, define and relate the following to each other, as you see them in our society today [you may number your sections, e.g. I) “Individual,” II) “Community,” etc., and then write about how they are or are not related, as the case may have it]:

1) Individual
2) Community
3) Society
4) State
5) Economy

Assignment #2—DUE MONDAY, 4/14, BY 2 PM, HU 16, POLITICAL SCIENCE CONTACT OFFICE, 5-7 FULL pages, typed, double spaced, times new roman 12 pt. font, 1” margins, stapled.
Between The Prince and the Discourses on Livy, there is near-constant motion and movement. Indeed, there is a certain frantic pace to each of the works. In class, I have sometimes referred to this “franticness” as dynamism.

1) What is this dynamism? What is its nature?
2) Of the two works, which one’s dynamism is more important? The dynamism found in The Prince, or the dynamism found in the Discourses?
3) Or, is it the case that a relationship exists between these two texts, and they are merely different vantage points upon the same dynamism that is the life and world of politics? Are we all just trapped in the same cycle, going around and around, indefinitely?

You must use QUOTES and CITATIONS.
Quotes longer than THREE lines must be indented one additional inch on either side, with the quote brought down to 10pt font.

Assignment #3—DUE AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER, DATE TBA
7-10 FULL pages, typed, double spaced, times new roman, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, stapled.
Meeting #1
Thursday, 1/23
Introduction

Meeting #2
Tuesday, 1/28
Your(?) World
Whitney, “Don’t Plan on Retiring.” (Counterpunch, 12/31/13)
http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/12/31/dont-plan-on-retiring/
Woodruff, “American In Decline: Young People Are Much Worse Off Than Their Parents Were At That Age.” (Business Insider, 3/15/13)
http://www.businessinsider.com/younger-generations-are-worse-off-today-urban-institute-study-2013-3#ixzz2osx8loxE
Donovan and Guida, “Millennials strike back: No we’re not just whiny babies!” (Salon, 12/10/13)
http://www.salon.com/2013/12/10/millennials_strike_back_no_were_not_just_whiny_babies/
Donovan, “We are deluding ourselves: The apocalypse is coming—and technology can’t save us.” (Salon, 12/9/13)
http://www.salon.com/2013/12/09/we_are_deluding_ourselves_the_apocalypse_is_coming_and_technology_cant_save_us/

Meeting #3
Thursday, 1/30
Machiavelli, The Prince
Dedicatory Letter; Ch. 1-7, pp. 3-33.

Meeting #4
Tuesday, 2/4
Assignment #1 IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
Machiavelli, The Prince
Ch. 8-14, pp. 34-60.

Meeting #5
Thursday, 2/6
Machiavelli, The Prince
Ch. 15-19, pp. 60-82.

Meeting #6
Tuesday, 2/11
Machiavelli, The Prince
Ch. 20-26; Machiavelli’s Letter to Francesco Vettori, pp. 83-111.
Meeting #7  
Thursday, 2/13  
**Founding**  
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*  
Dedicatory Letter; preface to Bk. I  
Ch. 1, 2; 9, 10. (from here on, I.1, I.2, I.9, I.10)  


Meeting #8  
Tuesday, 2/18  
**Civic Religion**  
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*  
I.11-I.15 and II.2  

Thursday, 2/20  
NO CLASS

Meeting #9  
Tuesday, 2/25  
**Making and Breaking Institutions I**  
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*  
I.1-I.8 (Re-read I.1 and I.2 as a prelude to I.3-I.8)  


Meeting #10  
Thursday, 2/27  
**Review of Last Class**

Meeting #11  
Tuesday, 3/4  
**Making and Breaking Institutions II**  
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*  

Livy, *The Early History of Rome*, II.18, III.29; III.31-III.60. (Definitely worth the read.)

Meeting #12  
Thursday, 3/6  
**Review of Last Class**
Meeting #13  
Tuesday, 3/11  
**Popular Political Judgment**  
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*  
I.29, I.47, I.53, I.54, I.57, I.58, III.29

Read the relevant Livy sections where applicable. (See the footnotes.)

Meeting #14  
Thursday, 3/13  
**Review of Last Class**

3/15—3/21  
**NO CLASS**

Meeting #15  
Tuesday, 3/25  
Meeting #15  
**Review of Last Class**

Meeting #16  
Thursday, 3/27  
**Making Republican War I**  
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*  
II, preface; II.1-II.10

Read the relevant Livy sections where applicable. (See the footnotes.)

Meeting #17  
Tuesday, 4/1  
**Making Republican War II**  
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*  
II.11-II.16, II.19, **II.23**, II.27, II.28, **II.29**, II.30

Read the relevant Livy sections where applicable. (See the footnotes.)

Meeting #18  
Thursday, 4/3  
**Corruption and the End of the Roman Republic**  
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*  
III.25, I.55, III.24, I.37

Read the relevant Livy sections where applicable. (See the footnotes.)
Meeting #19
Tuesday, 4/8
Freedom and Un-Corrupting a Republic
Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*
I.16-I.18, I.49, III.1-III.4, III.8, III.16, III.49

Read the relevant Livy sections where applicable. (See the footnotes.)

Meeting #20
Thursday, 4/10

Tuesday, 4/15
NO CLASS

Meeting #21
Thursday, 4/17

Meeting #22
Tuesday, 4/22
Sitrin, *Everyday Revolutions*, 83-123.

Meeting #23
Thursday, 4/24
Sitrin, *Everyday Revolutions*, 125-140.

Meeting #24
Tuesday, 4/29

Meeting #25
Thursday, 5/1
Sitrin, *Horizontalism*, 159-177.

Meeting #26
Tuesday, May 6
LAST CLASS
ASSIGNMENT 3—DUE AT END OF SEMESTER, DATE TBA