

PSC 200-03  
Fall 2007      Fri 8:30-11:20  
Professor Mark Lutz  
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Survey of Political Theory  
WRI C303

Office: Tue. 12:45-1:45  
Fri. 11:30-1:30.

The tasks of political theory are to raise and search for answers to the fundamental questions of political life, such as: how should we live, as individuals and as members of a society? What is justice, and what does it require of us? What is good and what is evil? What is the best form of government? In this class we will survey some of the most important thinkers who have sought to answer such questions, including Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Plato.

### **Readings:**

The following books should be purchased:

1. Niccolò Machiavelli. *The Prince*. 2nd ed. Translated by Harvey C. Mansfield. Univ. of Chicago Press, 1998.
2. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*.
3. Plato. *The Republic*. 2nd ed. Translated by Allan Bloom. Basic Books, 1991.

### **Format:**

Each session will combine lecture and discussion. It is very important that you come to class having done the assigned reading for that day. Read the material at least twice. Take notes and raise any questions you may have in class.

### **Assignments**

Assignments include:

- 1.. Paper of 5 pages on a topic to be assigned, due Feb. 23 (30%)
2. Mid-term exam (30%)
3. Final examination (40%)

You must complete all written assignments in order to pass the course. Your contribution in class may increase your final grade by one increment. Your grade would be reduced if you have more than one unexcused absence.

Each examination will consist of essay questions. One week before each examination you will receive details about it to guide your study.

Make-up examinations and extensions for submitting papers will be granted only in cases of emergency (e.g., personal illness, preferably with a note from a doctor; serious illness in one's family). The grade on a paper will be reduced by one increment on the scale for each day the paper is late without an approved extension.

### **Schedule**

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| 1. Fri Aug. 31  | Introduction   |
| 2. Fri Sept. 7  | Machiavelli <i>Prince</i> . "Dedicatory Letter"& chapters 1-9. |
| 3. Fri Sept. 14 | <i>Prince</i> . 10-19  |
| 4. Fri Sept. 21 | <i>Prince</i> . 20-26.   |

5. Fri Sept.	28	Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> . “Dedicatory Letter,” “Introduction,” and chapters 1- 6 and 10-13.
6. Fri	Oct. 5	<i>Leviathan</i> 14-21, 29, 30, 31, and 33.
7. Fri.	Oct 12	Exam
8. Fri.	Oct. 19	Plato <i>Republic</i> Book I
9. Fri.	Nov. 2	<i>Republic</i> Book II
10. Fri.	Nov. 9	<i>Republic</i> Books II and III
11. Fri.	Nov. 16	<i>Republic</i> Book IV and V
12. Fri.	Nov. 30	<i>Republic</i> Books V and VI
13. Fri.	Dec. 7	<i>Republic</i> Books VII and conclusion.

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Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>