



HS/PO/PH 355 POLITICS AND PHILOSOPHY OF POWER IN THE LAND OF MACHIAVELLI
IES Abroad Rome

DESCRIPTION:

Politics and Philosophy of power in the Land of Machiavelli is the study of the history of the ideas and reflections on power and political morality from 15th century Italy to the present, intended also as an investigation on Italy's social and cultural identity in historical perspective. The first part of the course focuses on Renaissance Italy, with special attention to The Prince by Niccolò Machiavelli. The second part of the course addresses some major themes of political theory that are deeply rooted in the Machiavellian tradition of political realism, through the perspectives of political philosophy, history, political science and political psychology. Actual case studies will be considered as examples of the use of the mechanisms of power in historical and everyday situations.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Seminar discussions
- Students' presentations
- Course-related trips
- Moodle will be used as course platform

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation (10%)
- Midterm exam (30%)
- Class presentation (25%)
- Final exam (35%)

***Details of required work:**

Format of the exams: Both midterm and final exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false, open questions and short essays, based on the topics discussed in class and on the assigned readings.

Presentation: The presentation consists of a critical (and creative) illustration of some laws of power.

Grading Rubric for student participation:

A	Excellent participation The student's contributions reflect an active reading of the assigned bibliography. Skillfully synthesizes the main ideas of the readings and raises questions about the applications and implications of the material. Demonstrates, through questions and comments, that he or she has been capable of relating the main ideas in the readings to the other information discussed in the course, and with his or her own life experience. The student makes informed judgments about the readings and other ideas discussed in class, providing evidence and reasons. He/she respectfully states his/her reactions about other classmates' opinions, and is capable of contributing to the inquiry spiral with other questions. The student gets fully involved in the completion of the class activities.
B	Very good participation

	The student's contributions show that the assigned materials are usually read. Most of the time the main ideas are identified, even though sometimes it seems that applications and implications of the information read were not properly reflected upon. The student is able to construct over others' contributions, but sometimes seems to interrupt the shared construction to go over tangents. He/she is respectful of others' ideas. Regularly involved in the activities but occasionally loses concentration or energy.
C	Regular participation The participant evidences a regular reading of the bibliography, but in a superficial way. He/she tries to construct over others' ideas, but commonly provides comments that indicate lack of preparation about the material. Frequently, contributions are shallow or unarticulated with the discussion in hand.
F	Insufficient participation Consistently, the participant reads in a shallow way or does not read at all. Does not participate in an informed way, and shows lack of interest in constructing over others' ideas.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Reflect on the concept of power
- Compare different theories of power and recognize them in real life situations
- Analyze Machiavelli's thought in detail
- Assess the influence of Machiavelli in history and political science
- Reflect on the nature of democratic regimes as opposed to other systems of government
- Assess the role of specific political theories in history
- Use the knowledge of power for their own advantage

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. If a student misses more than two classes in this course, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies. IES will only consider extreme emergency cases and will strictly adhere to this policy. Do plan your semester accordingly.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Readings
Week 1	Introduction 1. Introduction to the course. Guidelines on attendance. 2. Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i>. Organization of class work.	<i>The Prince</i> , dedication, chapters 1-2: Greene (Laws 1-3)
Week 2	Lessons from 15th century 1. Geography of power: mixed principedoms and new States 2. Debating the Laws of Power. The importance of reputation	• <i>The Prince</i>, chapters 3-9 • Greene (Laws 4-13)
Week 3	Machiavelli's strategies 1. Machiavelli on military affairs 2. Debating the Laws of Power. Being ruthless, focused, unpredictable	• <i>The Prince</i>, chapter 10-14 • Greene (Laws 14-23)

Week 4	Niccolò's Smile 1. The qualities of the Prince 2. Debating the Laws of Power. The dynamics of power	• <i>The Prince</i>, chapters 15-19 • Greene (Laws 24-33)
Week 5	The Borgias and Italian politics 1. The Prince in history: Cesare Borgia, Duke of Valentinois 2. COURSE-RELATED TRIP: Castel S. Angelo	• <i>The Prince</i>, chapters 20-26 • Greene (Laws 34-48)
Week 6	Midterm Week 1. Midterm Review 2. Midterm Exam	
Week 7	Principles of Legitimacy 1. Midterm comments. Principles of Government and Plato's question 2. Force, principles, open society and Guglielmo Ferrero's theory of power	Ferrero (1942), excerpts; Podunavac's paper
Week 8	Triads, squares and the angles of power 1. Aristoteles' rhetorical triad and Floch's axiological square 2. Debating the Laws of Power (and grave-hunting)	Greene (Laws 41-48)
Week 9	Persuading, manipulating, and the ultimate Truth 1. ROLE-PLAYING GAME 2. COURSE-RELATED TRIP: A philosophical walk. Dialogue on truth and knowledge	HUME (1740, Book III, Part I, Sect. I)
Week 10	The Quest for the Public Interest 1. On the concept of Public Interest	Bitonti (2017), <i>The Role of Lobbying in Modern Democracy: A Theoretical Framework</i> , in <i>Lobbying in Europe</i> , Palgrave Macmillan.
Week 11	Politics of interests and lobbying 1. Bentley's and Truman's group theory 2. Lobbying and the power of framing	• Truman (1951), chapter 1-2 • Lakoff (2004), <i>Don't Think of an Elephant!: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate</i>, excerpts
Week 12	Where is power today? 1. Review	
	Final exam	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Castel S. Angelo
- Gardens of Castel S. Angelo
- Vittoriano



GUEST LECTURES

A guest lecture on the role of Machiavelli in international political theory may be arranged (subject to availability).

REQUIRED READINGS:

- MACHIAVELLI, Niccolò (1532), *Il Principe*, Antonio Blado, Rome (English translation, *The Prince*, available on line here: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1232/1232-h/1232-h.htm>)
- GREENE, Robert (1998), *The 48 Laws of Power*, Viking Press, New York
- BITONTI, Alberto (2017), *The Role of Lobbying in Modern Democracy: A Theoretical Framework*, in *Lobbying in Europe*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke.
- HUME, David (1740), *A Treatise of Human Nature*, John Noon, London (book III).
- LAKOFF, George (2004), *Don't Think of an Elephant!: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate*, Chelsea Green, White River Junction (VT).

ADDITIONAL READINGS:

- FERRERO, Guglielmo (1942), *Pouvoir. Les génies invisibles de la Cité*, Putnam, New York (excerpts)
- TRUMAN, David Bicknell (1951), *The governmental process; political interests and public opinion*, Knopf, New York (chapters 1-2)
- VIROLI, Maurizio (2002), *Niccolo's Smile: A Biography of Machiavelli*, Hill and Wang, New York.

Further readings will be suggested and provided by the instructor, according to interests and needs of students.