

SOVEREIGNS and SUBJECTS: THE RISE OF THE MODERN STATE POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM MACHIAVELLI TO ROUSSEAU

I am attempting a loosely chronological consideration of some thinkers between the period of 1500 and 1780, the period that marks the rise and triumph of the modern political person and of the modern state. My criteria of selection relate to the specific themes that I hope to try and develop in the course. In particular (though not exclusively), I am interested in the relation of authority and community, the formation of political myth, the rise and fall in the belief of the efficacy of human action, and the gradual emergence of individuals thought capable of being under their own (political) control.

This enterprise will involve us in dialogue with each of the people we read. Needless to say, no-one should think that the presentation of a thinker constitutes in any way a total or complete understanding. Furthermore, the question of what an accurate partial understanding looks like, I must leave to both your and my imagination. The course proceeds in two dimensions. First, on a linear level, I am trying to tell the story of the rise of modern Western ways of thinking about individuals and politics and of the problems associated with that mode of thought. Secondly, on a vertical dimension, we are trying to become as well acquainted as possible with particular thinkers who have been important in this process. ***This means that you will get much more out of the classes if you have done the reading before the class.*** Such reading will serve to familiarize you, as it were, with the characters of the story that I am going to be telling. And since time is limited, the better your initial acquaintance the better you will come-to know them.

Office hours: Wed. 3-4:30, by appt at 534 7081, drop in: at SSB 374; Email: <tstrong@dssmail.ucsd.edu>

Please purchase the following books; they are all in paperback at the Book Store:

- Machiavelli, *The Prince* --Hackett Pub Co
- Shakespeare, *Richard III* --Simon & Schuster
- *Luther and Calvin on Secular Authority* --Cambridge University Press
- Hobbes, *Leviathan*-- Hackett Pub Co Inc
- Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* --Hackett Pub Co;
- Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings*, --Hackett Pub Co

The **Powerpoints** will be posted on my webpage (go to Social Science/ Political Science/ Faculty/ Tracy Strong)

Requirements

- An in-class midterm on or around February 1.
- A second mid-term around the beginning of March; precise date TBA.
- A final paper due at the time of the exam.

Any student not familiar with at least the broad historical outlines of the period is urged to acquaint him/herself with them, preferably by consulting R.R. Palmer, *A History of the Modern World*, or any of a number of standard texts.

I have also placed the following texts on reserve and indicated useful chapters, where appropriate, as suggested reading:

S.S. Wolin, **Politics and Vision**; L. Strauss and J. Cropsey, ed., **History of Western Political Philosophy**; G.L. Sabine, **A History of Political Theory**; J.L. Plamenatz, **Man and Society**, 2 volumes; J. G.A.Pocock, **The Machiavellian Moment**

January 4: Introduction; What is Political Theory?

Required: Nothing

Suggested: Wolin, Chap. I; pp. 131-140; Pocock, Chaps. I-III; Sabine, Chaps. 8-16

January 6,8, 11: Machiavelli: Volition and Illusion

Required: Letter to Vettori (pp 1-4) ; *The Prince* entire;

Suggested: *Discourses* I: preface, 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 55, II: preface, 2, 20; III: 1, 9, 43)Wolin, Chap. 7, Sabine, Chap. XVII, Strauss, pp. 271-92, Pocock, Chaps, VI-VII, Plamenatz, Chap. 1

January 13, 15 : Shakespeare: Illusion and Chaos

Required: *Richard III*

Suggested: *The Tempest, King Lear*

January 18: Martin Luther King Day – Holiday

January 20, 22, 25: Luther and Calvin and the Community of Saints: Volition and the Individual

Required: Luther, material in *Luther and Calvin on Secular Authority*; Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*; prefatory address; Book III, chapter 19; Book III, 21-24 (online); <http://www.reformed.org/master/index.html?mainframe=/books/institutes/>; Also on reserve. PLUS Calvin, material in *Luther and Calvin on Secular Authority*

Suggested: Calvin, *Institutes*, Book. II, Chaps. 1-5; Wolin, Chap. 6; J Winthrop, "A Modell of Christian Charitie" in E. Morgan, ed., *Puritan Political Writings* or at <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/winthmod.html>

January 27, 29, Feb. 3: Hobbes: Chaos and The Individual

Required: *Leviathan*, (Preface, Books I and II; Book III, chapters 32, 34, 37, 38, 43; and Conclusion)

Suggested: *Leviathan*, Books III, IV, *Behemoth* (ed. Holmes), Strauss, pp. 370-94; Wolin, Chap. 8, Sabine, Chap. XXIII, Plamenatz, Chap. 4

MIDTERM EXAMINATION ON MATERIAL THROUGH HERE, February 1.

February 5, 8, 10: Locke: The Individual and Economizing

Required: *Second Treatise on Government*

Suggested: *A Letter Concerning Toleration*; Strauss, pp. 457-86, Sabine, Chap, XXVI, Plamenatz, Chap. 6

February 12: Harrington: Economics and Power

Required: Nothing

Suggested: Harrington, *Oceana*; Pocock, Chap. XIII

February 15: Presidents Day. Holiday

February 17, 22: Montesquieu: Power, Eros and Justice

Required: *Persian Letters*, # 1-14, 19, 24, 26, 30, 47-48, 62-84, 92-104, 130-161; available online at <http://www.wm.edu/history/rbsche/plp/> and on reserve.

Suggested: *The Spirit of the Laws*; *Considerations on the Decline and Grandeur of the Romans*

February 24: Hume and the Enlightenment: Justice and Doubt

Required: "Of the Original Contract" (on line at: <http://www.constitution.org/dh/origcont.htm>)

Suggested: *Political Essays*, esp, Chaps. 2, 6, 10, 17, 18; *A Treatise on Human Nature*, Strauss, pp. 90-3, Hart, Chap, 10, Plamenatz,, Chap, 8. Diderot, *Rameau's Nephew*; Voltaire, *Philosophical Letters*, esp. VIII-X

SECOND MIDTERM on material through here, probably February 26 or March 1 (TBA)

March 1,3,5, 8: Rousseau and the Psychology of Fraternity: Doubt, Illusion and Volition

Required: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (March 1,3); *Social Contract* (Mar 5,8)

Suggested: *Discourse on Arts and Sciences*; *Discourse on Political Economy*; *Letter to D'Alembert on the Theater*; Plamenatz, Chap. 10; Strauss, pp. 532-53

March 10, 12: Conclusion and extra space(?)

FINAL PAPER DUE ON EXAM DAY AT EXAM TIME