

Political Science 110B  
Winter 1998  
MWF 10:10-11am, HSS 1330

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## **Systems of Political Thought: Machiavelli to Rousseau**

### Course Description

The sovereign state is a powerful presence in our lives. It serves as a provider of security and services, a forum for disputes and a dispenser of justice, and a simultaneous threat to and guarantor of our freedom. This class examines four of the most comprehensive and influential arguments about the nature of the modern state since its inception. We'll read these arguments about the scope and legitimacy of the emerging state in order to suggest new ways of thinking about its present problems and future prospects.

### Requirements

1. Attendance at lectures.
2. Four short-essay, take-home exams, each worth 25% of the final grade. Exam topics will be distributed at lecture on the Fridays before the due dates indicated below.

Each student has been allocated two grace days for the term. You may use them to turn in one of your exams two calendar days late, or two of your exams one day late each. Prior approval is not necessary. Grace days are not transferable. Once you have exhausted your allotment of grace days, your excuse for turning in a late exam should be of publishable quality.

### Required Texts (available at the University Bookstore)

Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings* (Hackett)  
Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett)  
Locke, *Political Writings of John Locke* (Mentor)  
Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings* (Hackett)

### Schedule of Readings

- 1/5: Introduction: Alternatives to the Sovereign State
- 1/7-16: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (entire), *The Discourses* (I.1-13, 16, 17)
- 1/19: First exam due
- 1/21-2/6: Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Introduction, Chs. 6-21, 26-31, 47, Conclusion)
- 2/9: Second exam due
- 2/11-2/20: Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government* (entire)
- 2/23: Third exam due
- 2/25-3/13: Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (Part II, plus notes 9, 15), *On the Social Contract* (entire)
- 3/18: Fourth exam due