**History of Political Thought III: Modernity**

**Spring 2016**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

**Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts—Bratislava, Slovakia**

**Instructor:** James Griffith

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**Office Hours:** Fridays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Course Description**

Here we will survey some of the major political texts of the modern period. We begin with the Renaissance in Niccolò Machiavelli’s *The Prince*, which can be said to inaugurate the modern understanding of power, especially in how it can be gained and maintained. We then turn to England, and to Thomas Hobbes’s monumental *Leviathan*, which introduces us to modern social contract theory, the state of nature, and the modern understanding of the formation of political communities. After these foundational texts, we look again to England but also to France and the changes in the concept of the state of nature as well as social contract theory brought about by John Locke’s *Second Treatise of Government* and Jena-Jacques Rousseau’s *The Social Contract*. Finally, we move to Germany for the end of the modern period. Specifically, we turn to three immensely important essays on the political thought of the Enlightenment, including the mature concept of freedom and the conceptualization of history in political terms, by Immanuel Kant, “Idea for a Universal History with a Common Purpose,” “What Is Enlightenment?,” and “Perpetual Peace.” In addition, we turn to G.W.F. Hegel for further development of the philosophy of history in a political sense through his *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*.

In covering these thinkers, we also cover the Renaissance, the English Civil Wars and Restoration, the French Revolution, the rise of modern science, the birth of capitalism, and other issues. Our discussions will thus involve any number of these concerns from a variety of angles.

**Texts**

Hegel, G.W.F, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History, with an Appendix from The Philosophy of Right*, tr. Leo Rauch (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1988), ISBN: 0-87220-056-6.

Hobbes, Thomas, *Leviathan*, rev. student ed., ed. Richard Tuck (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), ISBN: 9780521567978.

Kant, Immanuel, *Political Writings*, ed. H.S. Reiss, tr. H.B. Nisbet (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), ISBN: 9780521398374.

Locke, John, *Second Treatise of Government* (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1980), ISBN: 9780915144860.

Machiavelli, Niccolò, *The Prince*, tr. Peter Bondanella (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), ISBN: 0-19-280426-X.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, *The Social Contract and other later political writings*, ed. Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), ISBN: 9780524424462.

**Course Requirements and Grade Distribution**

75%: Three *papers*, each worth 25% of the final grade. *1000-1500 words* for each paper. Topics will be addressed as the term progresses.

10 %: *350-word summaries* of the material read over the course of the previous week will be due at the end of class every week.

10%: *Class Participation* is encouraged and expected. Attendance does not qualify as participation.

5%: *Attendance* is mandatory. I will allow two unexcused absences for the term. Lateness of more than 10 minutes qualifies as an absence.

**Other Issues and Concerns**

Academic Integrity

In this context, “academic integrity” primarily refers to plagiarism. Plagiarism is the taking of anyone’s previously written work and attempting to pass it off as new and/or your own. This includes not citing material that should be cited, even if you are not directly quoting a given source. It is a serious offense and BISLA’s Plagiarism and Cheating Policy will be followed strictly if it occurs. This policy can be found in the Google Drive folder for this course. *NB:*This document also has helpful strategies for avoiding plagiarism.

Expectations in the Classroom

You are all adults and should expect to be treated that way, by everyone in the classroom. You are also expected to treat others like adults. If you have questions, you need to ask them, in and out of class. If you are busy with other aspects of your life, they cannot interfere here—in other words, turn off your cell phones and other such devices, including WiFi access. If you have to use the bathroom, you do not need to ask me, but bear in mind how distracting that can be for others. If you have something to say that does not pertain to the discussion, wait until after class. In short, act like the adult you are and respect the classroom environment.

Writing Expectations

To be able to write clearly means you are thinking clearly. Thus, even your Text Questions should reflect a clarity of thought, a clarity of questioning. This does not mean that you are expected to write publishable papers. What it means is that you are expected to think about the sentences and paragraphs you write, whether they express your thoughts clearly and accurately, and if there may be better ways of expressing those thoughts.

If you are having trouble finding the right words, sentences, or paragraphs—or discover you are having trouble when you thought you were not—you should come see me and/or consult the Writing Tutors.

**\*\*\*\*\*This syllabus is subject to change.\*\*\*\*\***

**Course Schedule**

Week 1—Tuesday, February 16: Introduction

Thursday, February 18: **read for class:** Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Letter & chs. 1-3

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 2—Tuesday, February 23: **read for class:** Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chs. 5-8

Thursday, February 25: **read for class:** Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chs. 9-11, 15

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 3—Tuesday, March 1: **read for class:** Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chs. 16-19

Thursday, March 3: **read for class:** Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chs. 21-23, 25

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 4—Tuesday, March 8: **read for class:** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Introduction & chs. 1-3

Thursday, March 10: **read for class:** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 9, 10, & 13

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 5—Tuesday, March 15: **read for class:** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 14 & 15

Thursday, March 17: **read for class:** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 16 &17

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 6—Tuesday, March 22: **read for class:** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 18 & 21

Thursday, March 24: **read for class:** Locke, *Second Treatise*, Preface & chs. 1-3

**bring to class:** Summary

READING WEEK—NO CLASS

Week 7—Tuesday, April 5: **read for class:** Locke, *Second Treatise*, chs. 4-6

**bring to class:** Paper on Machiavelli and/or Hobbes

Thursday, April 7: **read for class:** Locke, *Second Treatise*, ch. 7

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 8—Tuesday, April 12: **read for class:** Locke, *Second Treatise*, chs. 8 & 9

Thursday, April 14: **read for class:** Rousseau; *The Social Contract*; Foreword & Bk. I, chs. 1-4

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 9—Tuesday, April 19: **read for class:** Rousseau; *The Social Contract*; Bk. I, chs. 5-9, & Bk. II, chs. 1-3

Thursday, April 21: **read for class:** Rousseau; *The Social Contract*; Bk. II, chs. 4-6

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 10—Tuesday, April 26: **read for class:** Rousseau; *The Social Contract*; Bk. II, chs. 7-12

Thursday, April 28: **read for class:** Kant, “What Is Enlightenment?”

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 11—Tuesday, May 3: **read for class:** Kant, “Universal History”

**bring to class:** Paper on Locke and/or Rousseau

Thursday, May 5: **read for class:** Kant, “Perpetual Peace,” pp. 93-108

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 12—Tuesday, May 10: **read for class:** Kant, “Perpetual Peace,” pp. 108-115

Thursday, May 12: **read for class:** Kant, “Perpetual Peace,” pp. 116-130

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 13—Tuesday, May 17: **read for class:** Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, chs. 1 & 2

Thursday, May 19: **read for class:** Hegel; *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*; ch. 3, pt. 1

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 14—Tuesday, May 24: **read for class:** Hegel; *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*; ch. 3, pt. 2

Thursday, May 26: **read for class:** Hegel; *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*; ch. 3, pt. 3

**bring to class:** Summary

Week 15—Tuesday, May 31: Paper on Kant and/or Hegel