

# Syllabus for Political Science 110B: Machiavelli to Rousseau

Winter 2020

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<b>Office hours:</b>	Tu., Thurs., 12:30-1:30pm	<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/10244">https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/10244</a>
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## Course description

The course surveys important works of political theory from the early modern period. We'll use the readings to think about the justification for political authority; individual rights and the justification of property; and democracy and its relationship to individual freedom, among other issues.

The goals of the course are to give students a solid understanding of important texts in the history of Western political thought and to give students opportunities to improve their writing skills.

## Website

To access the course website, go to <https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/10244>. Students must be able to receive email from the Canvas website and should check this account regularly. All course-related email will be sent via the website.

## Reading schedule

The schedule of readings can be found below. It specifies what should be read before each lecture. Each text can be found either on the course website, as a .pdf file, or online. The material is often dense, so one must read each text with care. **Doing so requires reading difficult passages multiple times and sometimes reading the entire text more than once.** There are reading questions for each assigned reading on the website, and students should answer the reading questions as they read the text.

## Course requirements and grading

The grade is based on attendance (5%), participation (5%), quizzes (5%), writing assignments (30%), a midterm exam (25%), and a cumulative final exam (30%).

### ***Attendance and participation***

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. To avoid any penalty to the participation grade, students must attend all but three of the twenty class sessions during the quarter; the attendance grade is just the number of classes attended divided by seventeen. If you are sick, have a family emergency, or must miss class for any other reason, there is no need to inform me and request an excused absence. The expectation that such occasions might arise has already been factored into the grading policy, which is why you have three excused absences, no questions asked. These absences are not to be used except in cases of emergencies. Unfortunately, any circumstances beyond your control that would cause you to miss four or more classes are probably also circumstances in which you should consider withdrawing from the course.

Participating means asking questions if something is unclear, venturing answers to questions put to the class, and participating in classroom discussions and exercises.

### ***Random quizzes***

Quizzes are designed to test whether a student completed the reading assignment and attempted to answer the reading questions. They are administered in class. They are unscheduled and not announced in advance. If a student misses class but the absence counts as one of the three excused absences, the student can reschedule the quiz.

### ***Writing assignments***

Before each class, students must email written answers to three reading questions to the instructor. These are graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis, with one point for each satisfactory answer. **Important:** to receive credit, the email should be sent to [singham@ucsd.edu](mailto:singham@ucsd.edu) and the subject line should be **110B:writing** and nothing else.

At some point during each lecture, we will discuss a sampling of answers from anonymous students, paying special attention to sentence mechanics, word choice, clarity, and accuracy, with the goal of sharpening students' writing abilities.

There are also two paper assignments. Details of the assignment will be released later in the semester.

### ***Exams***

The midterm exam covers all the previously assigned material. The final exam is cumulative. The date of the final exam can be found on the Registrar's website.

### ***Academic integrity***

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. For more information about what constitutes academic dishonesty and the potential repercussions, see the information at the following link:

<https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>

## Reading schedule

- [1] **January 7.** Syllabus, preview.
- [2] **January 9.** Machiavelli, *The Prince*, selections (see .pdf on website).
- [3] **January 14.** Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 13.
- [4] **January 16.** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 14, 15, 16.
- [5] **January 21.** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 17–18.
- [6] **January 23.** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 19.
- [7] **January 28.** Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 21.
- [8] **January 30.** John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*: §1–51.
- [9] **February 4.** John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*: §87–99.
- [10] **February 6.** Locke, *Second Treatise*, §119–142.
- [11] **February 11.** Locke, *Second Treatise*, §169–176, 220–226. **First paper due.**
- [12] **February 13.** Midterm exam.
- [13] **February 18.** Writing workshop.
- [14] **February 20.** David Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*, Bk III, part 2, §2 (“Of the origin of justice and property”).
- [15] **February 25.** Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, selections tbd.
- [16] **February 27.** Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, selections tbd.
- [17] **March 3.** Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Intro, Book I chs. 1–6.
- [18] **March 5.** Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Book I, chs. 7–9; Book II, ch. 1–6.
- [19] **March 10.** Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Book III, ch. 1 (through para. 7), 4, 5, 12–15.
- [20] **March 12.** Review session. **Second paper due.**