Week 1: An Introduction

Tuesday, July 2nd
Read: “Letter to Vettori” distributed by e-mail.
Due: Think critically about the letter and about what politics is, what justice is, what power is.

Thursday, July 4th
No class due to Holiday.
Due: Think about the meaning of the 4th of July. Start reading Plato.

Week 2: Plato, obedience to the laws, and the good life.

Tuesday, July 9th
Read: Plato, “The Apology”
Due: Come prepared to discuss the text; especially the charges, the good life, and wisdom.

Thursday, July 11th
Read: Plato, “The Crito”
Due: 2 page maximum response paper on Plato.
Also, come prepared to discuss the text; especially justice and what is owed to the laws.
Week 3: Machiavelli, power, and how a prince should rule.

Tuesday, July 16th

Read: Machiavelli, *The Prince* Chapters 1-14

Due: Come prepared to discuss the text; especially the different ways to acquire rule and maintain it. Do the ends justify the means?

Thursday, July 18th

Read: Machiavelli, *The Prince* Chapters 15-26

Due: 2 page maximum response paper on Machiavelli.

Also, come prepared to discuss the text; especially appearance v. reality, fortune v. virtù.

Week 4: Weber, vocation, and governance.

Tuesday, July 23rd

Read: Weber, “Politics as a Vocation” Pages 32-62

Due: Come prepared to discuss the text; especially the vocation of politics and what is a state.

Thursday, July 25th


Due: 2 page maximum response paper on Weber.

Also, come prepared to discuss the text; especially the politics of responsibility and the politics of conviction.

Week 5: Individual Liberty and Conclusions

Tuesday, July 30th

Read: Thoreau, “An Essay on Civil Disobedience”; Shklar, “The Liberalism of Fear”; Berlin “Two Concepts of Liberty”, all to be distributed by e-mail.

Due: Come prepared to discuss the text; especially what is liberalism, and the differences between the three authors’ takes on it.

Thursday, August 1st

Due: Bring the rough draft of your paper.

Also, think critically about how power and justice are related and how each author sees this relationship.

Final Paper due Friday August 2nd in SSB 328 at 6:00 PM.