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

We are 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. The criteria of selection relate to the specific themes that we hope to try and develop in the course. In particular (though not exclusively), we are 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, we must leave to both you and our imagination.

The course proceeds in two dimensions. First, on a linear level, we are 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 we are going to be telling. And since time is limited, the better your initial acquaintance the better you will come to know them.

Mr. Strong’s Office hours: Mon. 1:30, by appt at 534 7081, drop in: at SSB 374; Email: tstrong@ucsd.edu
Mr. Sharpless’s hours: Tu 3-5 in SSB 324; email ikesharpless@gmail.com

Please purchase the following books; they are all in paperback at the Book Store:
- Machiavelli, The Prince --Hackett Pub Co
- 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

Powerpoints posted at UCSD/Social Science/ Political Science/ Faculty/ Tracy Strong. **DO NOT RELY ON POWERPOINTS. THEY ARE NOT A CLIFF NOTES FOR THE LECTURES.**

Requirements
- A paper due in class February 11
- A final exam in class.

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:


**January 7:** Introduction; What is Political Theory?

**Required:** Nothing

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

**January 7 and 14:** Machiavelli: Volition and Illusion

**Required:** Letter to Vettori (pp 1-4); The Prince entire;
**Strongly Suggested:** Richard III
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; Shakespeare: *The Tempest, King Lear*

January 21: Martin Luther King Day – Holiday

**January 28:** Luther and Calvin and the Community of Saints: Volition and the Individual

**Required:** Luther and Calvin, material in *Luther and Calvin on Secular Authority*; *Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion*: prefatory address; Book III, chapter 19; Book IV (online: [http://www.reformed.org/master/index.html?mainframe=/books/institutes/](http://www.reformed.org/master/index.html?mainframe=/books/institutes/)) of DOWNLOAD FROM THE CLASS WEBPAGE

**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](http://history.hanover.edu/texts/winthmod.html)

**February 4:** 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. XXVI, Plamenatz, Chap. 4

**PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON FEBRUARY 11**

**February 11:** 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 18:** Presidents Day. Holiday

**February 25:** Montesquieu: Power, Eros and Justice

**Required:** *Persian Letters*, # 1-14, 19, 24, 26, 30, 47-48, 62-84, 92-104, 130-161;

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

**March 4:** Hume and the Enlightenment: Justice and Doubt

**Required:** “Of the Original Contract” (on line at: [http://www.constitution.org/dh/origcont.htm](http://www.constitution.org/dh/origcont.htm))


**March 4 and 15:** 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

**FINAL EXAM AT APPOINTED TIME**