

Machiavelli

Seminar for the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale University, January 10-12, 2019

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Machiavelli has been castigated as a teacher of tyrants, and celebrated as a republican political theorist. He is thought to be one of the classical “realists,” yet he has recently been promoted as a source of a populist politics. What was he? And what can he teach us about our increasingly conflict-ridden politics?

Assigned readings are taken from:

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield, 2nd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998); and, *Discourses on Livy*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield and Nathan Tarcov (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).

Thursday, January 10:

Session 1, On the Forms of Government

Prince Dedication, Ch 1-7 (30 pages)

Session 2, How Rule May Be Acquired and Can Be Maintained

Prince, Ch 8-15 (32 pages)

Friday, January 11:

Session 3, Machiavelli’s New Definition of Political Excellence

Prince, Ch 16-21 (29 pages)

Session 4, Machiavelli—A Patriot or Nationalist?

Prince, Ch 22-26 (13 pages)

Saturday, January 12:

Session 5, The Roman Republic as the Model of a Good Government

Discourses, Dedication, Bk 1, Preface, Ch 1-5, 9-10 (25 pages)

Session 6, How to Prevent the Rise of a New Caesar

Discourses, Bk 1, Ch 46, 49, 52-53, 57-58, 60; Bk 2, Ch 2-4; Bk 3, Ch 1, 28, 30, 36

(33 pages)