

Morality and Politics
GOV 351L, Unique 38725
CTI 325, Unique 33935
Fall 2012
MWF 1-2,WAG 420

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Themes

This course will explore the themes of morality and leadership in the writings of two great political philosophers, the ancient Athenian Xenophon and the renaissance Florentine Machiavelli. First, we will read Xenophon's *Education of Cyrus*, a rich fictional depiction of a virtuous ancient polis and the process by which a man of boundless talents and ambition easily subverts it. In place of the virtuous republic, Xenophon's Cyrus creates a progressive, dynamic, multi-ethnic society, aimed at wealth and expansion and glory, in which merit is rewarded and a self-sacrificing view of justice is replaced by a frank pursuit of the good things of this world. Yet in exploring this entrancing vision, Xenophon gives clear reasons why, in the end, he rejects it as the best model for a healthy society. Thus we will turn next to Xenophon's *Memorabilia of Socrates*, in which Xenophon presents an alternate model of human excellence, that of the philosopher who pursues a contemplative life of inquiry, moderation, and friendship. Machiavelli had the highest opinion of Xenophon and gave all his works the closest study. Yet he rejected the contemplative model of Socrates and devoted his writings to promoting the progressive, expansive political vision and the embrace of ambition that the *Education of Cyrus* warns against. In the second half of the course we will read Machiavelli's two great masterpieces, the *Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*. What did Machiavelli see that Xenophon did not, or what did Xenophon see that Machiavelli did not? How can these contrasting works help us understand and assess the deepest differences between ancient and modern republicanism and the fundamental presuppositions of modern liberalism?

This course carries the Ethics and Leadership flag. Ethics and Leadership courses are designed to equip you with an understanding of different approaches to moral reasoning and with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions both as a citizen and in your individual life.

Prerequisite: upper-division standing.

Required Texts (All are available at The University Co-op; *you must buy these editions.*)

- Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*. Trans. Wayne Ambler. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2001. ISBN 0-8014-8750-1.
- Xenophon, *Memorabilia of Socrates*. Trans. Amy Bonnette. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1994. ISBN 0-8014-8171-6.
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*. Trans. Harvey Mansfield. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985. ISBN 0-226-50038-1.
- Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*. Trans. Mansfield and Tarcov. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996. ISBN 0-226-50036-5.

Recommended Texts (available at The University Co-op)

- Strunk, William, and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. London: Penguin Books, 1999.
- Turabin et al, *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Seventh Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

- Aug. 29: introductory lecture
- Aug. 31 and Sept. 5: Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Introduction and Book 1
- Sept. 7 and 10: *Education of Cyrus*, Book 2
- Sept. 12: *Education of Cyrus*, Book 3
- Sept. 14: *Education of Cyrus*, Book 4
- Sept. 17: *Education of Cyrus*, Book 5
- Sept. 19: *Education of Cyrus*, Book 6
- Sept. 21: *Education of Cyrus*, Book 7
- Sept. 24: *Education of Cyrus*, Book 8
- Sept. 26: Xenophon, *Memorabilia*, Introduction and Book 1, chapters 1-3
- Sept. 28: no new reading assignment; short paper due at beginning of class
- Oct. 1: *Memorabilia*, Book 1, chapters 4-7
- Oct. 3, 5, and 8: *Memorabilia*, Book 2
- Oct. 10 and 12: *Memorabilia*, Book 3
- Oct. 15 and 17: *Memorabilia*, Book 4
- Oct. 19: in-class midterm
- Oct. 22: Machiavelli, *Prince*, Introduction, Dedicatory Letter, and chapters 1-5
- Oct. 24: *Prince*, chapters 6-10
- Oct. 26: *Prince*, chapters 11-14
- Oct. 29: *Prince*, chapters 15-18
- Oct. 31: *Prince*, chapters 19-22
- Nov. 2: *Prince*, chapters 23-26
- Nov. 5, 7, 9, 12, and 14: Machiavelli, *Discourses*, Introduction and Book 1
- Nov. 16, 19 and 21: *Discourses*, Book 2
- Nov. 26: no reading assignment; short paper due at beginning of class
- Nov. 28, 30 and Dec. 3 and 5: *Discourses*, Book 3
- Dec. 7: review

Wednesday, December 12, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon: final exam

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Attendance, reading quizzes, and participation	15%
3-page paper on Xenophon, due at the beginning of class Sept. 28	20%
midterm exam, Oct. 19	20%
3-page paper on Machiavelli, due at the beginning of class Nov. 26	20%
final exam, Dec. 12, 9 am – 12 noon	25%

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and quizzes on the assigned reading will be given at the beginning of class on random days throughout the term. There will be no penalty for absences due to religious holidays for which you have notified me at least 14 days in advance, or for documented illnesses or family emergencies. Your attendance, quiz, and participation mark will fall by one letter grade (10%) for each unexcused absence after the second. Quizzes cannot be made up, but your lowest three quiz grades will be dropped. Active participation in class, in discussion sections, and in office hours will improve your grade.

Papers will be graded for the quality of the writing as well as for their substantive content. For advice on writing papers in political philosophy, please go to <https://webspace.utexas.edu/lsp226/lorraineangle/advice.html>. For individual help with paper writing, please come to Professor Pangle's or Ahmed Siddiqi's office hours any time or visit the Undergraduate Writing Center, info at <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 3% + 2% for each calendar day they are late, unless you have a medical excuse or family emergency.

Plus and minus grades will be used, as follows: 93-100: A; 90-92: A-; 87-89: B+; 83-86: B; 80-82: B-; 77-79: C+; 73-76: C; 70-72: C-; 60-69: D; below 60: F.

University Honor Code: The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>, 471-6259.

No laptops may be used in class unless required by a student with disabilities.