

Machiavelli and Us

[? Course]

Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism

COURSE OUTLINE

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Course Time:

Location:

Course Description

The Renaissance political thinker Niccolò Machiavelli has had many lives. His political and historical writings made an impact in their time, but especially his treatise *The Prince* has had continuing impacts throughout Western thought up to the current day. This course looks at a history of Machiavelli's ideas and approach to politics, focusing on his ideas of *effectual truth*. This includes a survey of writings responding to and building upon Machiavellian ideas, from Hobbes and Rousseau, to Gramsci and Arendt; key among these is Althusser's book *Machiavelli and Us*, which is the basis for thinking through this course. It also functions as a gateway into contemporary treatments of Machiavelli, which will draw upon the collection *The Radical Machiavelli* to open up key questions and approaches to his thought in our current day.

Assigned and Suggested Readings

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Mansfield translation)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy* [excerpts]

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* [excerpts]

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* [excerpts]

Antonio Gramsci, *The Modern Prince and Other Writings* [excerpts]

Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution* [excerpts]

Louis Althusser, *Machiavelli and Us*

Filippo Del Lucchese, Fabio Frosini and Vittorio Morfino (eds.), *The Radical Machiavelli: Politics, Philosophy, and Language* [select essays]

Albert Russell Ascoli and Victoria Kahn (eds.), *Machiavelli and the Discourse of Literature* [select essays]

Maurizio Viroli, *Redeeming The Prince: The Meaning of Machiavelli's Masterpiece*

Yves Winter, *Machiavelli and the Orders of Violence*

Lucio Biasiori and Giuseppe Marcocci (eds.), *Machiavelli, Islam and the East Reorienting the Foundations of Modern Political Thought*