“If it had been found impracticable to have devised models of a more perfect structure, the enlightened friends to liberty would have been obliged to abandon the cause of [republican] government as indefensible. The science of politics, however, like most other sciences, has received great improvement. The efficacy of various principles is now well understood, which were either not known at all, or imperfectly known to the ancients.”

— The Federalist Papers, no. 9

“Oh, tell me who was it first said, who was it first proclaimed that the only reason man behaves dishonorably is because he does not know his own interests, and that if he were enlightened, if his eyes were opened to his real normal interests, he would at once cease behaving dishonorably and would at once become good and honorable because, being enlightened and knowing what is good for him, he would see that his advantage lay in doing good, and of course it is well known that no man ever knowingly acts against his own interests and therefore he would, as it were, willy-nilly start doing good. Oh, the babe! Oh, the pure innocent child!”

— Dostoevsky, Notes from the Underground

Political Science 4082
History of Political Theory: Machiavelli to Nietzsche
Spring 2008

Instructor: James Stoner <poston@lsu.edu>
Stubbs 240 (tel: 578-2538)

Office Hours: Mondays, 3:00-4:30;
Fridays, 10:30-11:30, and by appointment [call 578-2142]

Course requirements:
Daily quizzes on the reading [25%]
Midterm examination, on March 14 [15%]
8-10 pp. term paper: topic due March 28; glossary due April 11; paper due April 25 [30%]
Final examination, May 7 [30%]

Graduate Students and Honors Option: Extra sessions and 8-10 page paper on Leo Strauss, Natural Right and History (Chicago) [ISBN 0226776948], due May 1 [worth equals term paper; percentages adjusted]

Books available for purchase:
Niccolo Machiavelli, Discourses on Livy [tr. Mansfield & Tarcov] (Chicago) [ISBN 0226500365]
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (Hackett) [ISBN 0872201783]
John Locke, Two Treatises of Government (Cambridge) [ISBN 0521357306]
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, First and Second Discourses [tr. Masters & Masters] (Bedford/St. Martin's) [ISBN 0312694407]
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* [tr. Mansfield & Winthrop] (Chicago) [ISBN 0226805360]
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Basic Writings* (Modern Library) [ISBN 0679783393]

**Course Website:**
A course website will be available to registered students through the new Moodle system.

**Library Reserve:**
The readings for the course will be available on reserve in Middleton Library. In some cases the editions may differ from those listed above; please check with the instructor if this creates confusion as to what material is assigned. In addition, I will from time to time place on reserve certain secondary works that I think you might find particularly useful in helping you interpret the authors we are studying and in locating their place in the tradition of political philosophy. It should go without saying that secondary works are no substitute for the assigned reading; indeed, read without knowledge of the originals they are more apt to mislead than assist you.

**SYLLABUS:**

Mon., 1/14 Introduction

I. NEW FOUNDATIONS IN POLITICS AND PHILOSOPHY

Fri., 1/18 *The Prince*, ch. 12-19

[MLK BREAK]

Wed., 1/23 *The Prince*, ch. 20-26
Fri., 1/25 Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, Epistle; Book I: Preface, Disc. 1-10 (pp. 3-33)

Mon., 1/28 *Discourses on Livy*, Book I: Disc. 11-20, 25-29, (pp. 34-54, 60-67)
Wed., 1/30 *Discourses on Livy*, Book I: Disc. 33-34, 37, 47, 55-60; (pp. 71-75, 78-81, 96-99, 109-122)

Fri., 2/1 *Discourses on Livy*, Book II: Preface, Disc. 1-6, 9-10, 13-14, 24-29 (pp. 123-142, 146-150, 155-157, 184-199)

[MARDI GRAS BREAK]

Fri., 2/8 *Discourses on Livy*, Book III: Disc. 1-3, 6 (pp. 209-214, 218-235)

Fri., 2/15 *Leviathan*, ch. 7-12
Mon., 2/18 *Leviathan*, ch. 13-16
Wed., 2/20 *Leviathan*, ch. 17-21
Fri., 2/22 *Leviathan*, ch. 26, 29-31
II. LIBERALISM AND DEMOCRACY

Wed., 2/27  *Second Treatise*, ch. 6-8
Fri., 2/29  *Second Treatise*, ch. 9-15
Mon., 3/3  *Second Treatise*, ch. 16-19
Wed., 3/5  Rousseau, *First Discourse*
Fri., 3/7  Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, epistle, preface, introduction (pp. 76-104)
Mon., 3/10  *Second Discourse*, Part I (pp. 104-141)
Wed., 3/12  *Second Discourse*, Part II (pp. 141-181)
Fri., 3/14  MIDTERM EXAM

[SPRING BREAK]
Fri., 3/28  *Democracy in America*, vol. I, pt. 2, ch. 9 (pp. 264-302)
[TERM PAPER TOPIC DUE]
Mon., 3/31  *Democracy in America*, vol. II, pt. 1, ch. 1-8 (pp. 403-428)
Fri., 4/4  *Democracy in America*, vol. II, pt. 3, ch. 8-12; pt. 4, ch. 6-8 (pp. 558-576, 661-676)

III. MODERNITY CRITIQUES ITSELF

Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach,” pp. 143-145
[TERM PAPER GLOSSARY DUE]

Mon., 4/14  Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part I
Wed., 4/16  *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 2-3
Fri., 4/18  *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 4-5
Mon., 4/21  *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 6-7
Wed., 4/23  *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 8-9
Fri., 4/25  [TERM PAPER DUE]

IV. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Fri., 5/2  Review and Conclusion

FINAL EXAMINATION (Wed., 5/7, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)