

Spring, 2016
 MW 2:30 – 3:45
 Science Hall 360

Literature in Translation 365

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 O.H. Wed/Thurs by appt
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MACHIAVELLI AND HIS WORLD

Professor Kristin Phillips-Court
 Department of French and Italian

Description:

This course introduces students to the major works of Machiavelli through the close reading and discussion of his writings in their cultural and historical contexts. First, students will encounter Machiavelli's texts on their own, with guidance from lectures. Students will have the opportunity to react to Machiavelli's writing before grappling with its reception and interpretation. Students will then deepen their understanding of Machiavelli's thought by considering historical, literary, cultural, artistic, feminist, and political-theoretical points of view. Discussion and targeted writing assignments will aim at cultivating in students a broad understanding of Machiavelli's principal intellectual (literary, political-theoretical, historical) attitudes. The course aims at developing students' analytical reading, writing and discussion skills. The outcome will be a deeper understanding of the controversies surrounding Machiavelli, and the ability to articulate with subtlety some complexities in his political thought.

Texts: Please purchase two hard copies: (UW Bookstore or inexpensively on Amazon)

- 1) Machiavelli, *Mandragola*. Translated by Mera J. Flaumenhaft (Waveland Press)
- 2) Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings* (includes *The Prince*) Trans. D. Wootton (Hackett Publishing)

Other readings available on Learn@UW:

Machiavelli, Niccolò. *Legations* (selections)

____. *Description of the Method used by Duke Valentino in Killing Vitelli, Oliverotto, and Others*

____. *On the method of dealing with the rebellious peoples of the Valdichiana*

____. Selected letters

____. *Clizia* comedy (paperback also available for \$7 – \$11 on Amazon)

____. *Life of Castruccio Castracani of Lucca* (paperback also available for \$4 on Amazon!)

____. *Florentine Histories* (selections)

Angelo Poliziano, *The Pazzi Conspiracy*

Program:

Week 1: January 20 INTRODUCTION (Machiavelli, Bad Ass)

Week 2: January 25 – 27 FLORENCE

Reading and discussion: Angelo Poliziano, *The Pazzi Conspiracy* (Learn@UW)

- Florence in the Renaissance • The Medici • Humanism • The Pazzi Conspiracy • 1494 • The Republic
- Leonardo and Michelangelo • Government structures • Damn the Pisans

Week 3: February 1 – 3 *MACHIAVELLI, SECRETARY AND HUMANIST*

Reading and discussion: Machiavelli, *Legations* (Missions), *On the Method Used by Duke Valentino* (Learn@UW)

- Secretary and Humanist • Diplomacy • The Rucellai Orchard • The *speculum principis* tradition • Machiavelli's Gift of Counsel • The Uses of History • Machiavelli, *storico* • Machiavelli's two periods •
- Cfr. The *Discourses*

Week 4: February 8 – 10 *EXILE*

Reading and discussion: Letter to Francesco Vettori; *The Prince*, Dedications, Chapters 1 – 6

- Soderini's Weakness • Torture • Exile • Political Science or Political Satire? • Machiavelli, *tragico* • Art and Science • The Best Case Scenario • Exemplum • Machiavelli's Method •

Week 5: February 15 – 17 *THE HEART OF THE SCANDAL*

Reading and discussion: *The Prince* Chapters 6 – 7 – 8 – 9

- Imitation • Reputation • The Impossible Exemplar • Glory and Infamy • A Foul Stench in Rome • *Monstrum* • What kind of Virtue? • Machiavelli and Modernity •

Week 6: February 22 – 24 *CHURCH AND STATE* * Paper #1 due on Feb. 29

Reading and discussion: *The Prince*, Chapters 10-16

- Religion and Grace • Moral – Immoral – Amoral • In the World of Immanence • A Moral Pessimism?
- Utopia or Dystopia? • A Tragic Geography • Cfr. The *Discourses*

Week 7: February 29 – March 2 *THE FOX, THE LION, AND LADY FORTUNE*

Reading and discussion: *The Prince*, Chapters 17- 26; cf. Petrarch "Italia mia"

- Machiavelli's Corporeal Language • Who's talking? • Fear and Love • Power and Play • Misogyny?
- Barbarians • The Wheel of Fortune •

Week 8: March 7 – 9 *MACHIAVELLI THE HISTORIAN*

Reading and discussion: *Discourses on the First Ten Books of Titus Livy*, Book I (selections)

- In the Orchard • Reading Livy • The "Path Untrodden" • Rome and, more importantly, the Discourse of Rome • Revolution • Machiavelli's Undisciplined Work? • The Idea of Liberty • Institutions and the *bene comune* •

Week 9: March 14 – 16 *LIBERTY AND FREEDOM*

Reading and discussion: *Discourses*, cont., Books II and III [selections]

- Conflict is Good • Redeeming Brutus • Defining Progress The Republican Ethos • The Difficulty of Change •

(March 14) **Forum:** [*The Prince* and *The Discourses* in context, keywords and concepts]

(March 16) *ID/Essay Exam

*****SPRING RECESS March 19 – 27*****

Week 10: March 28 – 30 variable

Week 11: April 4 – 6 *SEX*

Reading and discussion: *Mandragola* comedy

- Vain Thoughts • Why Comedy? • Slander • Love and War (all's fair) • Poetry and Desire • Power and Perspective, Trust and Deceit • On Prudence • Losing Her Religion •

Week 12: April 11 – 13 *RAPE*

Reading and discussion: *Mandragola* comedy, cont. cf. Livy, *History of Rome*, Ch. 32

- The Mandrake Remedy • Roman Lucretia • Women's Voices, Women's Bodies • Allegory • Irony • Who's on Top? • Annunciation •

Week 13: April 18 – 20 *MAN OF LETTERS*

Reading and discussion: *Clizia* comedy

- Career Change • Machiavelli, Man of Letters • Young Lovers and Old Men • Paternal Instincts •

Week 14: April 25 – 27 *HEROES AND ANTIHEROES* **Paper 2 due on April 25**

Reading and discussion: *Life of Castruccio Castracani*

- An Archetypal Prince • Biography and/as History • The Good Prince? • Exemplary Literature •

Week 15: May 2 – 4 *UNDER MEDICEAN STARS*

Reading and discussion: Machiavelli's *Florentine Histories* (selections)

- Cultivated Histories • Rewriting the Medici • Civil Discord • The Impossible Conjunction •

(May 4) **Forum:** *CONCLUSIONS, LEGACIES, OPEN QUESTIONS*

[The Originality of Machiavelli [Was Machiavelli a Republican? Do we want him to be? Nagging misconceptions, theoretical premises and historical evidence, anti-Machiavellian legacies]

Exam 2 during Final Exams week: we are scheduled for Sunday, May 8 at 7:30 pm

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING:

*ATTENDANCE is expected and assumed. No unexcused absences, please. See UW policy on L@UW.

Reading checks (quick IDs), intellectual engagement, and participation*20%

*This includes participation in/preparedness for the FORUMs, etc.

Paper 1 (position paper, one rewrite if you choose)20%

Paper 2 (literary analysis paper, one rewrite if you choose)20%

ID/Essay exam (at mid-semester)20%

ID/Essay exam (at end of semester)20%

Protocols**Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct:**

Academic misconduct includes plagiarism and other forms of citation without giving credit, including close paraphrasing. Misconduct also includes copying among students, i.e. students must turn in individual work. I'll cite the official UW policy on our Learn@UW course page.

Email correspondence:

Please use an opening and closing salutation, please be polite, and please (**I beg you!**) create a new subject line for your email, instead of using an old one. Email courtesy does not only benefit me: it benefits you by assuring my consideration and respect in return.

Office hours:

Please come to office hours as often as you like. Please use office hours for delving deeper into the material, for follow-up questions, for clarifying concepts, for consulting about paper topics, for general mentoring, or anything else I can help you with OTHER THAN asking me to fill you in on a missed lecture. If you have an excused or unexcused absence, please contact me or a classmate. I will help you to obtain notes. After you have reviewed the notes, I will be happy to discuss during office hours.

Electronics:

Please have the courtesy of turning off your cell phones and putting them away during lecture. Please do not use laptop computers.