

Honors 296

Philosophy and Political Economy

Professors Brian M. Pollins (Political Science) and Allan Silverman (Philosophy), both participating in all class meetings and discussions.

M&W 12:30 - 2:18

Honors House Seminar Room

General Syllabus

Week 1: Plato's Theory of the Good and this Theory of Justice (led by Silverman)

Republic Books 1-4.

Week 2: The Philosopher's Choice (Silverman)

Republic Books 6-7.

Week 3: The Decline of the State and the Soul (Silverman)

Republic Books 8-10.

Week 4: Roots of Modernism, Liberalism and Mercantilism: Machiavelli (led by Pollins)

The Prince (all)

Week 5: Machiavelli's influence on contemporary Theory of International Relations (Pollins)

Selections from *Discourses* and assigned essays, e.g., Isaiah Berlin, selections from *Princeton Readings*.

Week 6: Man and the State: Thomas Hobbes (led by Pollins and Silverman)

Leviathan Chapters 1-12.

Week 7: Hobbes on the problem of Cooperation. Relevance to IR Theory (led by Pollins)

Leviathan Chapters 13-19.

Week 8: Economic Liberalism: Adam Smith (led by Pollins)

Wealth of Nations Book I (Chapters i - iii), Book III (Chapters iii, iv), Book IV (entire), Book V (Chapter 1)

Week 9: Political Liberalism: Smith and Rousseau (led by Silverman and Pollins)

revisit *Wealth of Nations*, read Rousseau's *Discourse on Inequality*

Week 10: Rousseau and Justice (Silverman), Rousseau and IR Theory (Pollins)

selections from *Social Contract* and *State of War* and *Constitutional Project for Corsica*

Students are evaluated on the basis of frequent and consistent class participation, and on 3-4 essays (depending on length) which will be drafted and rewritten after regular feedback from and interaction with Pollins and Silverman.