

IDH2930 – The Prince

Instructor

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Office Hours

Tuesday 2 PM

Course Description

The Prince, by N. Machiavelli

Is it better to be feared or loved? If two powerful friends are fighting, is it better to remain neutral or to choose a side? Is luck required to be successful? All of these questions (and others) were directly and candidly answered almost 600 years ago by Niccolo Machiavelli in his famous book *The Prince*.

The book was banned for many years and blamed for numerous political problems throughout Europe. The 2012 translation by Tim Parks brings the archaic wording of 16th century Italian into our modern language, creating an extremely accessible version for both first-time readers as well as those familiar with the book. *The Prince* is not a novel, but more of an instruction manual for future princes of city-states on how to conduct their affairs in peacetime and in wartime.

In this course we will examine the messages Machiavelli conveys in both a historical and more modern context. Although the course is not wholly composed of future monarchs, we may treat ourselves as rulers of our lives and affairs and bring the conclusions drawn in *The Prince* out of into more personal focus.

The course consists of weekly discussions of a single chapter in the book (assigned previously) and short lectures on some of the technical aspects contained in that chapter.

Required Text

"*The Prince*", Niccolo Machiavelli

Material and Supply Fee

none

Evaluation of Grades

Attendance -- 25%

Participation – 50%

Reading Assignments – 25%

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Grading Policy

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Attendance and Participation Policy

Class attendance is expected. Each unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction in the final grade. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Schedule

(see Canvas Calendar)