

It is my way to suffer no impediment, no love of ease, no avocation whatever, to chill the ardour, to break the continuity, or divert the completion of my literary pursuits.

John Milton

For genius, all over the world, stands hand in hand, and one shock of recognition runs the whole circle round.

Herman Melville

Honors 354.2

Elements of Politics

Autumn 2007

Instructor: L. Goldberg: 328 Greenlaw MW 5:45-6:15 F 4:00-4:30 & by appt.

School: lagoldbe@email.unc.edu Home: amicis@earthlink.net

Course requirements: 5 precis, one essay of eight to ten pages, a final oral exam

Texts: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chicago) [Mansfield]
Descartes, *Discourse on Method* (Hackett)
Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett)
Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Hackett)
Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (Bantam)
Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (Penguin)
Franklin, *Autobiography* (Signet)
Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings* (Hackett)
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Hackett)
Hamilton, Madison, Jay, *The Federalist* (Mentor)
Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence*

- Aug. 22 Pico della Mirandola (1486); La Rochefoucauld (1664)
- Aug. 27 Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527): *The Prince* (1513)
29 -----
- Sept. 5 Rene Descartes (1596-1650): *Discourse on Method* (1637) (omit pp. 25-29 on circulation of heart)
- Sept. 10 Descartes continued **PRECIS I DUE** (500 words)
- Sept. 12 Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679): *Leviathan* (1651): Chapters V-VI, X (first two pages), XI, XIII-XIV
- Sept. 17 Hobbes continued: Chapters XV, XVII-XVIII, XXI, XXIV, XXVI-XXVII
- Sept. 19 Hobbes continued: XXVIII-XXXI, XLVI
- Sept. 24 Hobbes continued
- Sept. 26 John Locke (1632-1704): *Second Treatise of Government* (1690)
- Oct. 1 Locke continued
- Oct. 3 Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), *Battle of the Books* (1710) pp. 398-408, 410-411;
Gulliver's Travels (1726): I
- Oct. 8 Swift continued: *Gulliver* II-III **PRECIS II DUE** (500 words)
- Oct. 10 Swift continued: *Gulliver* IV
- Oct. 15 Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778): *Discourse on the Sciences and Arts* (1749); *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men* (1754)--pp. 25-60, 83-106
- Oct. 17 -----: *Discourse* continued--pp.60-81, 106-109

- Oct. 22 -----: *On the Social Contract* (1762): Books I-II *Discourse* continued
PRECIS III DUE (500 words)
- Oct. 24 ----- III: i, iv,, vii, viii, xv, xviii; IV: i, ii, vii, viii
- Oct. 29 Edmund Burke (1729-1797): *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790)
(you may omit: pp. 99-108; 151-161; 164-184; 193-213)
- Oct. 31 Burke continued
- Nov. 5 Burke continued **PRECIS IV DUE** (500 words)
- Nov. 7 Burke continued
- Nov. 12 Adam Smith (1724-1804): *Wealth of Nations* (1776): Introduction; I:1-5
- Nov. 14 *Wealth* continued: I:6-10, 11—intro & concl; III (entire)
- Nov. 19 *Wealth* continued: selections IV & V (handout) **PRECIS V DUE** (500 words)
- Nov. 26 Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826): *The Declaration of Independence* (1776);
Articles of Confederation
Madison et al: *Constitution of the United States* (1787)
Alexander Hamilton (1757?-1804), James Madison (1751-1836), John Jay
(1745-1829):
The Federalist (1787-88): 1, 2:11-14, 6, 9
- Nov. 28 *Federalist*: 10, 14, 15, 23, 31:1-3
- Dec. 3 *Federalist*: 37-39, 42:7, 44:16, 47, 49, 51, 53:2-4, 54, 55:3, 55:9, 57:3, 57:12-14, 62, 63,
64:3-4, 68, 70, 71:2, 72
- Dec. 5 *Federalist*: 73, 75:4-5, 76: last paragraph, 78, 81:1-8
- Dec. 9 **8-10 page paper due** (2000-2500 words)
- Dec. 12?? 4:00-7:00 **FINAL EXAM:** Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) *Autobiography* (OMIT:
82m-90m, 109m-114m, 120-130b; ADD: 206-208m, 333-335; FUN: 183, 208m-215, 296m-297)

STANDING ASSIGNMENT: For each and every class you are to isolate and analyze at least two passages that you think are quite significant for understanding the assigned reading. Be prepared either to call attention to that special significance or to raise some question pertaining to the passages with which you have wrestled.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL READINGS: Spinoza: *Theologico-Political Treatise*; Montesquieu: *Spirit of the Laws*; Hume: *Essays*: "Of the Origin of Government," "Of the Original Contract," "Of the First Principles of Government," "Idea of a Perfect Commonwealth"

"Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

George Washington

"To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is a chimerical idea."

James Madison