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Machiavelli Seminar in Florence:
Classical Strategy & Modern Conflict
GOVT 486-62 Summer 2014

PROFESSORS:

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When evening comes, I go back home, and go to my study.... and I put on the clothes an ambassador would wear. Decently dressed, I enter the ancient courts of rulers who have long since died. There, I am warmly welcomed, and I feed on the only food I find nourishing and was born to savor. I am not ashamed to talk to them and ask them to explain their actions and they, out of kindness, answer me. Four hours go by without my feeling any anxiety. I forget every worry. I am no longer afraid of poverty or frightened of death. I live entirely through them.¹

There is much of relevance to the problems of modern international relations in the writings and ideas of the classical (pre-20th century) strategists -- Xenophon, Thucydides, Polybius, Livy, Caesar, Maurikios, Machiavelli, Frederick the Great, Napoleon, Clausewitz, Jomini, Mahan and Corbett. It is not accidental that Machiavelli falls in the middle between those he followed and those who followed him. In the history of strategy, his *Dell'arte della guerra* (Art of War), stands as a watershed between the classical and the modern, a serious study of civil-military relationships and his "*Discorsi sopra la prima deca di Tito Livio*" (*Discourses on Livy*) represents a benchmark in the development of "grand strategy."

Unfortunately, while the works of the great strategists are still treated with respect in history, philology and philosophy courses, as well as at the military academies, the study of their strategic insights and potential application to modern international relations is too often ignored, or worse, treated superficially. None is more victimized by this supercilious hubris than Machiavelli, who seems perpetually defined solely by "The Prince." The objective of this seminar is to rectify

¹ Niccolo Machiavelli, letter to Francesco Vettori, quoted in: Joshua Kaplan, "Political Theory: The Classic Texts and their Continuing Relevance," *The Modern Scholar* (lecture #7), 2005.

this lacuna and rehabilitate the master strategist for a new generation. It is very appropriate that a seminar focused on the relevance of the strategy classics to modern problems not only be named in Machiavelli's honor, but held in his historic city where the culture and environment that influenced his work is still so well preserved.

Following Machiavelli's concept of a "discussion with the ancients" with relevance to modern issues, this 3 credit seminar encompasses three elements:

- In-depth study of Machiavelli's writings and an appreciation of the Florentine environment in which he wrote them;
- Actively apply Machiavellian teachings in "balance of power" laboratory by participating as a strategist in the European focused historical "Nth Power" simulation and the Asian centered future oriented "Hegemon" simulation.
- Incorporate the insights of Machiavelli to a Research Paper on contemporary foreign policy challenges.

The course is managed by the Office of International Programs at Georgetown University. For details and questions regarding logistics and overseas policies, please contact Karen Wardzala, Assistant Director, Villa Le Balze Programs, Office of International Programs, Georgetown University, via email at: <klw45@georgetown.edu>. See also: <http://villalebalze.georgetown.edu/>.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS:

- Quiz on Assigned Machiavelli writings (June 16) = 15%;
- Participation in simulations and class (and workshop) = 20%;
- Research Paper (DUE 1 August) = 65%;

COMMUNICATION:

If in doubt, ASK!

Whether about course requirements, simulation problems or substantive issues – ***the ONLY dumb question is the one that is not asked!***

CLASS ATTENDANCE & IN-CLASS COMPUTING:

This is a seminar where student participation is not only encouraged but required. Class attendance is mandatory and an unexcused absence reduces the grade by 5%.

Portable computers are encouraged – however surfing the web, emailing, texting, or cell phone calls during class are prohibited. Violation is enforced with 5% grade demerit per incident.

EXAMS:

There is one exam in the course – a midterm exam on the required works of Machiavelli. **(June 16)**

RESEARCH PAPER:

Each student will complete one of three possible writing assignments. Option 1 is to conduct research on one of Machiavelli's major works. Option 2 is applying insights from Machiavelli's writings to current and future US foreign policy challenges. Option 3 is to serve as a rapporteur at the conference.

- TOPICS – Students must commit to one of the three paper options before the end of the session in Italy.
- SIZE – minimum of 10 pages of text, typed (font = “Cambria” 12 point; 1.5 line spacing; 8.5” x 11” paper with 1.25” margins all around);
- FORMAT & STYLE
 - MS Word document = doc/docx;
 - History is important but majority of text should be analytical not descriptive;
 - Paginated (starting with first page of text to last);
 - Footnoted at bottom of page using the style shown in Asian Arms Control Project Style Guide.
- SUPPORTING MATERIAL
 - Title page (required with student name and date but not numbered);
 - Supplementary Charts in Excel, Maps and Illustrations in PowerPoint or Word;
 - Source bibliography (required) in same style as footnotes but organized alphabetically by author.
- COLLABORATION –students may work together on a research paper, but the project will be expected to be a minimum of 20 pages and represent double the individual effort.
- FINAL Assignments are due via email to Professors Kroenig <mhk32@georgetown.edu>, Shambaugh <shambaug@georgetown.edu>, and Professors Karber <karberp@thepotomacfoundation.org> on or before **1 August 2014**.

SIMULATION:

A major pedagogical thesis of this course is that the study of strategy involves complex relations between technological development, military force deployment and the political capacity to anticipate long-term self-interest in an evolving security structure and negotiate with others on measures to stabilize it. A simulation allows students to explore the relationship between these variables and their complex interactions in a dynamic and systematic approach. This course will use the “Nth Country -- Asia” (Techno-Diplomacy) simulation “Hegemon” for this purpose and it will involve all students participating in a war game with active diplomacy in a

multi-polar environment. For details on game play and modification for this course, see:

- P.A. Karber and Rowley Rice, "Nth Power: Simulating the Cold War Conventional-Nuclear Balance in Europe," (2012);
- P. A. Karber, Scott LaFoy and Nick Yarosh, "Hegemon: Simulating Competitive Strategy in the Rise of Status Quo Challengers in Asia," (2012).

Participation in the simulation represents 20% of course grade, thus, students are expected to demonstrate active, diligent and enthusiastic participation in the simulation as well as help design the application for Asia – collecting data on technology patterns in the region, projecting rival force development and experimenting with rules – as well as critiquing the results at the end of the semester.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Essential Works of Machiavelli*, Peter Constantine tr., (New York: Modern Library, 2007).

NEW TEXT

Other readings will be available on the course's Blackboard page.

SCHEDULED CLASS MEETINGS:

Day 1 – June 10 Tue, 6:00pm

Student Arrival at Villa le Balze

Villa le Balze Welcome – Alan Earhart

Welcome and Course Overview – Drs. Shambaugh, Kroenig, and Karber

***Nth Power* Simulation Orientation**

Day 2- June 11 Wed, 9:00am-12:00pm

Lecture by Dr. Kroenig – "Machiavelli: His Life and Times."

Professor-led Discussion – "Machiavelli's Letters."

Required Reading:

Niccolò Machiavelli, "Biographical Note" and "Letters."

***Nth Power* Simulation Lab 1**

Wed, 1:00-6:00pm

Guided tour of Florence with Debora Spini

Day 3 – June 12 Thu, 9:00am-12:00pm

Lecture by Dr. Kroenig – “The Discourses on Livy.”

Lecture by Dr. Shambaugh – “The Prince.”

Required Reading:

Niccolò Machiavelli, “The Discourses on Livy” and “The Prince.”

Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue.”

Nth Power Simulation Lab 2

Thu, 1:00-4:00pm

Guided Tour of Casa Machiavelli with Debora Spini

Day 4, 5, 6 – June 13, 14, 15

Fri, Sat, Sun FREE WEEKEND

Nth Power Simulation Lab 3

Day 7 June 16 Mon, 9:00am-12:00pm

Lecture by Dr. Karber – “Machiavelli & The Art of War.”

Lecture by Dr. Karber – “Other Ancient Strategists.”

Required Reading:

Niccolò Machiavelli, “The Art of War.”

Professor-led Discussion: Nth Power Simulation Recap

4:00pm

Midterm exam on Machiavelli’s writings

Day 8 June 17 Tue, 8:00am-6:00pm

Machiavelli’s Environment. Guided tour of Sienna, Pisa, and Lucca

Day 9 – Jun 18 Wed, 9:00am-12:00pm

Roundtable Discussion – “Contemporary Foreign Policy Challenges”

Lecture by Dr. Kroenig – “Insights from the Discourses”

Required Reading:

Kroenig, “Dominant Democracies: The Domestic Sources of International Power.”

Hegemon Simulation Orientation

Day 10 – Jun 19 Thu, 9:00am-12:00pm

Lecture by Dr. Shambaugh—“Insights from the Prince”

Guest Lecture

Required Reading:

For George to fill in

Hegemon Simulation Lab 1

Day 11, 12, 13—June 20-21-22

The Potomac Foundation Conference

Student participation welcome and encouraged, but not required.

Hegemon Simulation Lab 2

Day 14 – Jun 23 Mon, 9:00am-12:00pm

Guest Lecture

Roundtable Discussion – “Insights from Machiavelli.”

Hegemon Simulation Lab 3

Day 15 – Jun 24 Tues, 9:00am-12:00pm

Hegemon Simulation Recap

Conclusion and Wrap-Up

Paper Topics Due

Day 16—June 25 Wed Departure from Villa Le Balze

Aug 1 Student Papers DUE via email to Dr. Shambaugh, Kroenig and Karber

GRADING & HONOR SYSTEM

Course grading is based on the following percentages:

A	100-96 %
A-	95-90
B+	89-88
B	87-84
B-	83-80
C+	79-78
C	77-74
C-	73-70
D	69-60
F	59 and below

Georgetown Honor System:

All students are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. In registering for this course, we expect you to read the honor code material located at www.georgetown.edu/honor, and in particular: *Honor Council Pamphlet*, "What is Plagiarism?", "Sanctioning Guidelines", and "Expedited Sanctioning Process." All papers in this course may be subject to submission to turnitin.com for checking and we expect you to have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge: *"In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together."*