

Political Science 111B:
“Early-Modern Political Thought Machiavelli to Kant”
Discussion Section Syllabus
Spring 2015

Instructor: Mack Eason

Email Address: mack.eason@ucla.edu

Office: Bunche 3293

Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00 – 2:00 in Bunche 3288

Section 1A:	Monday	12:00-12:50	HAINES A20
Section 1B:	Monday	1:00-1:50	HAINES A20
Section 1B:	Monday	2:00-2:50	HAINES A24

You are free to either attend whichever of these sections works best in your schedule, either on a temporary or permanent basis.

The Purpose of this Discussion Section:

This discussion section is meant to give PoliSci 111 students the opportunity to discuss the texts and ideas covered in lecture, to voice your own ideas and opinions on class material, and learn how to shape these ideas and opinions into arguments. The goal is to help students develop a better understanding of the material presented throughout the course, so that they may be more successful. As your TA, I will do my best to help you understand, contextualize and apply the concepts presented in this course. To this end, I may use small-group discussions, short in-class writing assignments or question and answer sessions, depending on how the course goes.

Section Website: In addition to the course website, there is also a TA site dedicated solely to discussion sections. It is located at: <https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/15S-POLSCI111B-1-EASON>. Please check this site regularly. I will do my best to send all pertinent information by email, but students are responsible for what is posted on the TA site whether or not they receive an email.

Requirements and Grading:

Your grade for this course will be based on the following three sources.

1. Midterm (Week 5) - 45%
2. Final (Week 10) - 45%
3. Discussion Section Reading Responses - 5%
4. Discussion Section Participation - 5%

Although Professor Pagden will be writing the exams for this course, I will be the one grading your work. Exams and assignments will be graded on a letter grade scale.

Reading Responses: In order to better facilitate contemplation and engagement with the assigned reading, you will be required to respond to the weekly reading assignments on the correct discussion board (which is **located on the TA site**). A post should contain (at least) two sentences for every assigned chapter:

- 1 – something interesting or funny from the reading
- 2 – a question about the reading

These responses are due by 9:00 AM on Mondays, and will comprise part of your section grade.

Participation:

In our discussions you will be expected to:

- Be prepared – You are expected to have read the assigned material before class and attend both lecture and this discussion sections regularly.

- Participate in discussions and exercises – The class exercises are for everyone’s benefit and will be most beneficial when everybody participates.

Section participation is measured by whether you attend section, whether you participate, and how well you are prepared.

Supplemental Readings and Materials:

There are no additional ASSIGNED readings or materials for this discussion section. That said, I will be providing additional materials that will complement what is covered in lecture. These will be posted on the TA section of the Moodle course website.

TA Availability:

I am always available during office hours. Students may also make appointments to meet one-on-one via email. If you are struggling with the reading, assignments, or with lecture, come see me sooner than later. If you come later, you will be competing for my time with your classmates.

Email:

The best way to contact me is by email. I will attempt to return your emails as soon as possible. If I have not responded within 24 hours, please resend your email, as I may not have received the original. If you have a question that may take a dissertation to answer, or if you are emailing during the week prior to either the midterm or final exam, you should probably make an appointment to see me. NOTE: If you email me over the weekend, I may take longer to respond.

Exam Policy:

If you cannot attend the assigned midterm or final exam time, you must give me notice at least **two weeks** in advance.

University Guidelines on Academic Dishonesty, etc.

Plagiarism and cheating are violations of university policy. I take academic dishonesty extremely seriously and will not tolerate it.

All students of the University of California at Los Angeles are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students and those students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member involved and non-academic sanctions given by the Honor Code Council (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).

- Please refer to <http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/> to view the specific guidelines.
- If you have any questions related to this policy, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students at (310) 825-3871.
- If you are not sure whether something constitutes ‘academic dishonesty,’ you will need to speak with me about it BEFORE you turn in your assignment.