**POLI 300B Early Modern Political Thought**

**Instructor Fall 2021:** Joanna Cordeiro

**Course delivery:** In the Fall 2021 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

**Course description:**
This course will help you think critically about the ideas that have delineated the prevailing political imagination. You will be encouraged to think about the political implications of the debates in which some early modern thinkers have been engaged and how these debates have shaped your own understanding of what politics means, particularly your understanding of what it means to be a citizen and a human. The main debates this course will address include the formation of modern subjectivity and modern states; liberty and equality; inclusion and exclusion; colonialism; the legitimacy of violence; spatiotemporal organization of politics. We will especially examine texts by Niccolò Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, John Locke and Immanuel Kant.

**Prerequisite:** POLI 103 or 202, or permission of the department.

**Course outcomes/objectives:**
- To gain experience in the close reading of texts
- To develop analytical and critical-thinking skills.
- To develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion.
- To gain experience in the evaluation and critique of theoretical arguments.
- To understand how these texts still inform current political debates

**Topics may include:**
Natural law and civil law
Social contract and constitutions
Sovereignty and government
Equality, inequality and exclusion
Theology and secularization
Legitimation of violence
Politics and economics

*This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.*