POLI 300B
Early Modern Political Thought

Instructor:
David Miller (Summer 2021)

Course delivery: In the Summer 2021 term, this course will be delivered through a mix of synchronous and asynchronous lectures and discussion periods.

Course description:
This course will consider some of the canonical texts in European political theory from the Early Modern period. Surveying works by Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, and Locke, this course will focus on the development of certain key concepts in Western political thought. While we will place these texts in their historical context, this course will focus on the substantive content of their work. In particular, this course will focus on the origins and development of concepts such as the state, sovereignty, and citizenship.

About the instructor: David Miller is a PhD student in Political Science. His research focusses on modern political theory and contemporary forms of anti-state resistance.

Prerequisites: POLI 103 or POLI 202, or permission of the department.

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion.
- Critically assess texts.
- Recognize and reconstruct central concepts, problems and arguments of social contract theory.
- Explore parallels in current events with arguments from the Early Modern theorists.

Topics may include:
State of nature
Citizenship
State and sovereignty
Colonization
Equality and exclusion

This online summary is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.