Dustin Sebell
Office Hours: TBD

How to Rule the World:
Introduction to Political Philosophy

Our introductory course in political theory will be devoted to exploring what may well be the highest political theme: the requirements of great political rule. What must we do in order to govern well? Even more important, what must we know? With these and related questions in mind, you will be asked to read, reflect on, and write carefully about a handful of foundational texts that all deal, in very different ways, with the question of the requirements of great political leadership.

I. REQUIRED TEXTS
Please purchase only the editions indicated. The books are available for purchase at the Bookstore. Please bring the relevant text to class and to the discussion section. Ebooks are NOT an acceptable substitute.


II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance/Participation: 10%
3. 1st Essay: 25%
4. 2nd Essay: 30%
5. 3rd Essay: 35%

III. SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED READINGS

Jan 11: Introduction

Cyrus the Great and the Peak of Political Rule
Jan 13: Xenophon, The Education of Cyrus Book I
Jan 20: Xenophon, The Education of Cyrus Book I (continued)
Jan 25: Xenophon, The Education of Cyrus Book II
Jan 27: Xenophon, The Education of Cyrus Book III
Feb 1: Xenophon, The Education of Cyrus Book IV
Feb 3: Xenophon, The Education of Cyrus Books V and VI
Feb 8: Xenophon, *The Education of Cyrus* Book VII
Feb 10: Xenophon, *The Education of Cyrus* Book VIII

**Machiavelli’s New Teaching**
Feb 15: Machiavelli, *The Prince* “Dedicatory Letter” and Chs. 1-3; 1st Paper Due
Feb 17: Machiavelli, *The Prince* Chs. 4-6
Feb 22: Machiavelli, *The Prince* Chs. 7-14
Feb 24: Machiavelli, *The Prince* Chs. 15-18
March 2: Machiavelli, *The Prince* Chs. 19-23
March 14: Machiavelli, *The Prince* Chs. 24-26; 2nd Paper Due

**Shakespeare’s Critique of Machiavelli: Richard III**
March 16: Richard III Act I
March 21: Richard III Act II
March 23: Richard III Act III
March 28: Richard III Acts IV-V

**The Biblical View of Great Political Rule**
March 30: 1 Samuel 1-18
April 4: 1 Samuel 19-31
April 6: 2 Samuel 1-12
April 11: 2 Samuel 13-24

**Socrates and the Education to Political Excellence**
April 13: Plato, *Protagoras* 309a-320c
April 18: Plato, *Protagoras* 320c-333e
April 20: Plato, *Protagoras* 349a-362a;
April 22: 3rd Paper Due
**Jepson School of Leadership Studies**

**Common Syllabus Insert**

*Awarding of Credit*

To be successful in this course, a student should expect to devote 10-14 hours each week, including class time and time spent on course-related activities.

[http://registrar.richmond.edu/services/policies/academic-credit.html](http://registrar.richmond.edu/services/policies/academic-credit.html)

*Disability Accommodations*

Students with a Disability Accommodation Notice should contact their instructors as early in the semester as possible to discuss arrangements for completing course assignments and exams.

[http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/disability-services/policies.html](http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/disability-services/policies.html)

*Honor System*

The Jepson School supports the provisions of the Honor System. The shortened version of the honor pledge is: “I pledge that I have neither received nor given unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.”

[http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/honor/](http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/honor/)

*Religious Observance*

Students should notify their instructors within the first two weeks of classes if they will need accommodations for religious observance.

[http://registrar.richmond.edu/planning/religionsobs.html](http://registrar.richmond.edu/planning/religionsobs.html)