

REPGOVT MR 74 First Paper Questions

Write a 4-6 page paper (double-spaced, one-inch margins minimum) in response to **one** of the following two questions. Your paper is due **Monday, February 19, 2005, 8PM**, at a place to be determined by your TF. You should e-mail your paper to your TF by 8:30 PM. Any paper received 8:31:00 or afterwards electronically will be reduced by one-third grade, and will be reduced further by one-third grade for every day late.

Questions:

1. Consider the following tension. At times the character of republican virtue in the *Federalist* and Machiavelli appears to be a form of obedience – the filtering, smoothing, sanding, and domestication of radical human nature. At other times republican virtue appears to call forth aggression and bellicosity. Begin by documenting briefly this tension, using the readings we have done so far. Consider: Is this tension a problem, a contradiction? Does republican virtue offer any way of balancing these two patterns? Conclude by briefly addressing the following two questions: (1) Do republican institutional arrangements contradict the supposed existence of virtue, or do they depend on it? (2) How do republics balance passivity and activity in the achievement of material prosperity for their citizens?

2. What is the relationship between religion and virtue in Machiavelli? Will any religion serve to order and secure a republic, or would some religions do this better than others? Can a republic survive without religion? If so, how? Finally, take a page or two to step back and reflect on the following questions: (1) Are Machiavelli's prescriptions for religion worth taking seriously today – as either explanatory (helping us to understanding the facts) or normative (as the sort of thing we should put to use)? (2) Would the American Founders (as represented in the *Federalist*) accept or reject these prescriptions?

Hints:

(1) Go through the question carefully and read it more than once. Address the entire question (all parts of it) in your essay.

(2) Consider a counterargument or two against the position you take.

(3) Proper spelling, orthography and grammar are a must. Check your paper before turning it in.