

## REPGOVT MR 74 First Paper Questions

Write a 5 page paper (double-spaced, one-inch margins minimum) in response to **one** of the following two questions. Your paper is due **Monday, February 23, 2009, 8:00 PM**, to the electronic mailbox of your TF.

1. In Book I, Chapter 2 of his *Discourses*, Machiavelli both offers a typology of republics and discusses the relationship of the Roman republic to that typology. Review this typology briefly, and discuss at least two broad assumptions it makes about how political institutions develop over time. Machiavelli later states that good choices and/or fortuitious events can interrupt these old lines of political development. How do such moments disturb what Machiavelli sees as the normal course of events?

2. How would you characterize Machiavelli's understanding of the relationship between religion's presence in a republic and the stability of that regime? In answering this question, you should draw on more than one historical example discussed in assigned readings from the *Discourses*. Now transpose his understanding of religion's influence to the legislators and legislative institutions envisioned in *Federalist* #10. Offer and defend an account of how religion might (in Machiavelli's eyes) affect individual behavior in this setting.

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.