

Reading Machiavelli and Macbeth ... Twice! Syllabus

Instructor

Adam Rose

Quarter: Spring 2024

Start – End Date: March 21 – May 9

Session Day/Time: Thursday, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Course Code and Section: HUAS90945 24S1

Email

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Course Overview

Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* is sometimes read as a rebuttal of Machiavelli’s *Prince*. We’ll explore this notion by using the strategy laid out in Mortimer Adler’s classic *How to Read a Book*, to read each work twice, once quickly to get an overview and then again more slowly to figure out the details. Along the way, we’ll pay careful attention to the literary, philosophical, and political aspects of each classic work as well as to the relationships between the two.

Modality

Remote learning

Note to Students

Prior or concurrent participation in *How to Read Classic Texts* or equivalent experience is recommended. Students may wish to review Adler and Van Doren’s *How to Read a Book* prior to, or concurrent with, this course. Please complete the assigned “inspectional” skim readings for Week 1 before the first class.

Required Texts

1. Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince* (de Alvarez translation). Waveland / 978-0881334449.
2. Shakespeare, William. *Four Tragedies: Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth*. Bantam / 978-0553212839.

OPTIONAL

1. Adler, Mortimer and Van Doren, Charles, *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*. Touchstone / 978-0671212094.

Books can be purchased online through the [University of Chicago Bookstore](#).

Course Readings

Week	Author	Reading Assignment
Week 1	Machiavelli	INTRODUCTION INSPECTIONAL SKIM: <i>The Prince</i>
Week 2	Machiavelli	<i>The Prince</i> — Epistle Dedicatory, Chapters I-II
Week 3	Machiavelli	<i>The Prince</i> — Chapters I-XIV
Week 4	Machiavelli	<i>The Prince</i> — Chapters XV-XXVI
Week 5	Shakespeare	INSPECTIONAL SKIM: <i>Macbeth</i>
Week 6	Shakespeare	<i>Macbeth</i> — Acts I-II
Week 7	Shakespeare	<i>Macbeth</i> — Acts I-III
Week 8	Shakespeare	<i>Macbeth</i> — Acts IV-V REVIEW AND SYNTHESIS

Accessing Remote Courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts>. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: <https://canvas.uchicago.edu>.

Accessibility Information

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

UChicago CARES Statement:

The University and its faculty are committed to creating a safer and more inclusive learning environment for all students. At the University, all faculty, staff, graduate student instructors, and teaching assistants are considered “Individuals with Reporting Responsibilities” and are required to let the University’s Title IX Coordinator know about any disclosures they receive from students about experiences of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment). This includes disclosures of experiences that happened before their time at the University. This is to ensure that all students who have experienced sexual misconduct receive support, options, and information about their rights and resources. Students are not obligated to respond to this outreach, and this will not generate a report to law enforcement.

For more information, please see [this handout for students](#) as well as the [University's Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct](#) and [Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment](#). You can also reach out directly for services and support from the [Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support](#) by emailing titleix@uchicago.edu.

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zme1@uchicago.edu.