NB: This is an upper division, discussion-based course designed to meet once a week.

Course description: Republicanism is simultaneously one of the most ancient political concepts and one of the most pertinent to contemporary politics. Its relevance stems from the notion that the res publica, or “public thing,” is held in common by a people, all of whom have a vested interest in, and shared responsibility for, the outcome of certain political decisions. Republicanism maintains that those in authority must be held to account and that only through responsible political stewardship, civic virtue, and the dispensation of one’s duties as citizen can political freedom be achieved and upheld. Yet republics have historically been fraught with problems, from the worries over establishing virtue in Cicero, to the class tensions and imperialist concerns we find in Machiavelli’s Discourses, to the warning against vulnerability to corruption in Rousseau’s Social Contract. It thus bears asking if and how republicanism is complementary to, distinct from, inferior or superior to deliberative democracy and liberalism. Topics to be considered include: the historical development of republican political thought in the ancient and early modern world; republicanism’s relationship to empire; the role of civic virtue in maintaining republics; republican definitions of freedom; and the contemporary (re)emergence of republicanism and “neo-republicanism” in political philosophy.

Primary texts
Polybius, The Histories
Cicero, On Duties
Sallust, Catiline’s Conspiracy
Machiavelli, The Discourses and The Prince
Milton, “The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates”
Montesquieu, The Spirit of the Laws
Rousseau, The Social Contract
Arendt, “What is Freedom?” and On Revolution
Pettit, Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government
Shorter readings will be made available on the class website.

Requirements
• Two papers, one due at midterm and the second during exam week
• One page reading responses due weekly in class. One, but only one, week may be skipped at the student’s discretion without penalty.
• Attendance and active participation

Grading
• First paper: 20%
• Second paper: 35%
• Reading responses: 15%
• Participation: 30%
Reading schedule

**Week 1 | Introduction: Defining What a Republic Is – And Is Not**
- Christopher Nadon, “Republicanism: Ancient, Medieval, and Beyond,” in *A Companion to Greek and Roman Political Thought*, pp. 529-541

**Week 2 | Polybius and Mixed Constitutions**
- Polybius, *The Histories*, Book VI
- Fergus Millar, “Polybius and the Roman Constitution,” in *The Roman Republic in Political Thought*, pp. 23-36

**Week 3 | Cicero and Civic Virtue**
- Cicero, *On Duties* (entire but skim Book II, §52-§87)
- Malcolm Schofield, “Republican Virtues,” in *A Companion to Greek and Roman Political Thought*, pp. 199-213

**Week 4 | Sallust, Conspiracy, and the Corruption of Republics**
- Sallust, *Catiline’s Conspiracy*

**Week 5 | Civic Humanism and the Republican Revival: Enter Machiavelli**
- Quentin Skinner, “Republican Virtues in the Age of Princes,” in *Visions of Politics II: Renaissance Virtues*, pp. 142-159
- Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chapters VI-VIII; XXV)
- Machiavelli, *The Discourses* (Book I, chapters I-VI, IX, X, XVI-XX)

**Week 6 | Machiavelli, Libertas, and Imperium**
- Machiavelli, *The Discourses* (Book II, chapters I-IX; Book III, chapters I, III)

**Week 7 | Milton, Republicanism, and Regicide**
- Milton, “The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates”
- Victoria Kahn, “The Metaphorical Contract in Milton’s *Tenure of Kings and Magistrates*,” in *Milton and Republicanism*, pp. 82-105

**Week 8 | Montesquieu and the Political Science of Republicanism**
- Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* (Book 1, Chapter 1.3; Books 2, 3, 5, 8; Book 11, chapters 11.1-11.4)
Week 9 | Rousseau and the General Will
- Rousseau, The Social Contract, Books I and II

Week 10 | Rousseau and Civil Religion
- Rousseau, The Social Contract, Books III and IV

Week 11 | Modern Republicanism
- Arendt, “What is Freedom?”
- Arendt, On Revolution (introduction and chapter 1)

Week 12 | The Rise of Neo-Republicanism
- Pettit, Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government (introduction, chapters 1 and 2)

Week 13 | Freedom as Non-Domination
- Pettit, Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government (chapters 3 and 4; “Republicanism: Once more with Hindsight”)

Exam week | Second paper due

Bibliography (suggested readings for the second paper)


Costa, M. Victoria. “Neo-Republicanism, Freedom as Non-Domination, and Citizen Virtue.” 


