

CEL 598 Special Topics: "City, Nation, & Globe: Debating Forms of Community"

*****NB: This is a temporary, incomplete syllabus; revised version to follow!**

Instructor: Trevor Shelley

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Course Dates: July 5 – July 28, 2022

Course Meeting Times: Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Description:

This course examines ancient and modern texts of political philosophy to engage numerous debates over the forms of political community. Questions and topics include--but are not limited to--the advantages and disadvantages of different political forms; the underlying motivations for, and dynamics of, various political bodies; the things that hold communities and peoples together; the reasons forms persist, metamorphose, or collapse; and the drive toward human unity or unification.

Required Texts:

John Quincy Adams' Fourth of July Address in 1821 [provided]

Aristotle, *Politics* [excerpts provided]

"Lowell-Lodge Debate" (Joint Debate on the Covenant of Paris, *League of Nations*, Henry Cabot Lodge and A. Lawrence Lowell) [provided]

Pierre Manent, *A World Beyond?* (Princeton U Press, 2013)

ISBN: 978-0691125671

Pierre Manent, *Natural Law and Human Rights* (U Notre Dame Press, 2020)

ISBN: 978-0268107215

Pierre Manent, *Democracy without Nations?* (ISI Press, 2013)

ISBN: 978-1610170840

Niccolò Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, Trans. Harvey Mansfield and Nathan Tarcov (U Chicago Press, 1998)

ISBN: 978-0226500362

Plutarch, *Lives* [excerpts provided]

Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Signet Mass Market Paperback, 1998)

ISBN: 978-0451527134

George Washington's *Farewell Address* [provided]

Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*, Trans. Wayne Ambler (Cornell U Press, 2001)

ISBN: 978-0801487507

Course Requirements:

Class Participation:

Students will be expected to have completed the reading assignments associated with each week in advance of our class meetings, and come prepared to discuss them. Participation grading will depend upon the quality of participation rather than overall quantity; quality participation is thoughtful, respectful, related to the readings and topics under discussion, and consistent over the course of the session.

Weekly Papers:

Students will write one paper of 5-6 double-spaced pages in length (Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1 in. margins) for each of the four weeks. These papers will be due by 11:59 p.m. (Arizona Time) on Friday. Papers should be submitted through the appropriate link on the course Canvas page.

Tentative Reading Schedule

America, the Debate over Political Forms, and the Human Political Condition

T July 5

United States Declaration of Independence
George Washington's *Farewell Address*
John Quincy Adams' Fourth of July Address in 1821
Lowell-Lodge Debate
Manent, *A World Beyond*, Chs. 1-6

W July 6

Manent, *A World Beyond*, Chs. 7-15

TH July 7

Manent, *A World Beyond*, Chs. 16-18
Aristotle Bks. 1, 3, & 7

Ancient Empire and its Limits?

T July 12

Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*

W July 13

Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*

TH July 14

Xenophon, *Education of Cyrus*
Plutarch, *Lives* (excerpts)

Modern Empire and its Limitlessness?

T July 19

Machiavelli, *Discourses*

W July 20

Machiavelli, *Discourses*

TH July 21

Machiavelli, *Discourses*

Globalization, the Nation, and the Form(s) of Human Action

T July 26

Shakespeare, *Antony & Cleopatra*

W July 27

Manent, *Democracy without Nations?*

Manent, *Natural Law and Human Rights*

TH July 28

Manent, *Natural Law and Human Rights*