

**READING ASSIGNMENT FOR UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
(A.P. GOVERNMENT)**

SUMMER 2011

The course in United States Government and Politics – A.P. Government – that you have selected for the next school term concerns itself not merely with the study of our national political institutions, but also with the sources and the exercise of political power generally. Few thinkers have broached the latter subject in a more lastingly influential way than the 16<sup>th</sup> century thinker and political philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli.

Machiavelli's *The Prince* has had a profound and lasting impact on politics and governing for almost half of a millennium, and some of the precepts advanced in this work continue to be controversial – and relevant – today. In preparation for your study of the purposes and uses of political power, the instructors for your course request that you read this famous work during the summer months as a prelude to undertaking your studies in the fall.

*The Prince*, obviously, is in the public domain, and exists in numerous translations. Moreover, even various identical translations, themselves often in the public domain, may have different paginations. Because of this, I have edited and converted to Portable Data Format one of the better public domain translations of the work. It is included here as a “.pdf” file. While you are not required to use this version for your summer reading, having this copy, for consistency of reference, will greatly facilitate discussion of the work in class in the fall. Because of the references to them in *The Prince*, I have included Machiavelli's “Description of the Methods Adopted by the Duke Valentino When Murdering Vitellozzo Vitelli, Oliverotto Da Fermo, the Signor Pagolo, and the Duke Di Gravina Orsini,” and “The Life of Castruccio Castracani of Lucca,” in the attached file containing *The Prince*. You are not required to read those works, but may find them interesting and/or helpful in gaining a better understanding of *The Prince*.

You should have completed this assignment prior to the start of your course in the fall.

Mr. Torrence  
for himself and Mr. Kummer