**Guide:**

**10 QUESTIONS IN TOTAL SEE ATTACHED.**

If you quote or paraphrase words or distinctive ideas from a source on the take-home, you must cite it. As with your paper, author's last name and page number in parentheses should be usually adequate, for example: (Dubofsky, 117). For a website, give the full URL.

You should be able to answer these questions based on the reading assignments and class sessions (including PPTs) of this course. If you wish to use other information and sources—books, articles, websites, etc.—you may, but don’t base your answer on what you find in your search. That will not be considered acceptable. The work done in class should be the base of your answers, instead.

Please, number all your responses and the pages of your exam.

It is acceptable to study together, share information and prepare with classmates, if you like. What you write, however, must be your own. If you begin to wonder if you're collaborating too closely in formulating your answers, it's time to stop and move to preparing independent answers. If I see answers that duplicate or nearly duplicate each other, both will be judged unacceptable.

**Format:**

Your exam should be typed, double-spaced, have normal margins and fonts (not a specific number), and be stapled. Read the questions carefully and make you answer all parts of the question. Quality responses will:

Show that you understand and can articulate the arguments -- keeping in mind that since this is a take-home exam, simple reiteration is only a small part of your grade.

Be sure to explain the reasons for your answer and use specific examples drawn from the texts we read and class lectures to support your answer.

Effectively compare, contrast, and critique.

Offer your own analysis and points of view.

There are no formulaic answers to any of these questions. It is incumbent upon you through your responses to demonstrate that your answer has met the criteria above and deserves a high grade.

You need thoughtful and well-constructed arguments to do well on this exam. Please refer to the rubric at the end of this document.

**In Class Readings:**

Required readings

* Leonardo Sciascia, The Day of the owl (available at University Bookstore, off-campus bookstores and at the Snell Library)
* Italo Calvino, Marcovaldo, or the Seasons in the City, Harcourt Brace, 1983 (available at University Bookstore, off-campus bookstores and at the Snell Library)
* Niccolò Machiavelli, The Prince, ed. Quentin Skinner, Cambridge University Press

Recommended

* Chris Duggan. A concise history of Italy, Oxford University Press, 1996.
* Giuliano Procacci. History of Italian People, London: Penguin, 1978.

**Questions:**

1.

Define the following concepts from Machiavelli’s The Prince and use quotations from the text to support your statements.

a) Concept of Man

b) Concept of virtù (flexiblity)

c) Concept of fortune (luck)

2.

Is Machiavelli advocating the use of immoral means in politics? Why or why not?

3.

How does The Prince compare to the form of government allegorically represented in Lorenzetti's fresco of The Good and Bad Government and to the civic values of the City-states in the Middle Ages? How are they similar and how are they different?

4.

What's Machiavelli’s position in relation to God? Does Machiavelli refer to God in The Prince and why? Compare with Dante’s Divine Comedy

5.

How does The Prince relate to Pico della Mirandola's principles of ‘Man at the center of the universe’ as expressed in his treatise Oration on the Dignity of Man?

6.

In what sense we can interpret the Inferno as an expression of the civic values prized during Dante’s time? Discuss the concept of common good in Dante’s Inferno and make connections to Lorenzetti’s fresco The Good and Bad Government.

7.

Why we can call Renaissance in Italy a “urban revolution”? What’s the role of the cities in the birth of Renaissance.

8.

"We are born into the condition of being able to become whatever we choose …” Pico della Mirandola writes in Oration on the Dignity of Man. What is the main message of this text and how does it relate Humanism? Comment on these lines.

9.

Discuss the importance of the piazza in Italian culture since its origins. What functions did it serve in the Middle Ages? How did it developed over time and what are the basic features an piazza should have in order to serve the function of public social space

EXTRA question:

Why is ‘intellect’ a fundamental virtue for Dante? Discuss the idea of ‘intellect’ in the Inferno and bring direct quotations from the Canti we have studied.