Writing Assignment #1: Machiavelli and More
Note: Evidence for your essay must be based only on the assigned texts.

1. In *The Prince* and *Utopia*, how much freedom does the prince/the individual have in defining or creating him- or herself? To what extent is one free to choose how to express oneself? To what extent is one free to act as one wishes? What of one's obligation to others? To the state? Can the prince/Utopians do whatever they want? Using Machiavelli and More, write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast the authors’ views on the freedom to defining or creating oneself.

2. “Men in general judge more by the sense of sight than by the sense of touch, because everyone can see but only a few can test by feeling. Everyone sees what you seem to be, few know what you really are” (Machiavelli, 49).

Machiavelli, the potential counselor to the Prince in Florence, is concerned with a distinction between appearance/reality and seeming/being. What is Raphael Hythloday’s view on the role of a counselor? What would Hythloday say about Machiavelli’s advice on the relationship between dissimulation and sincerity? Can counselors tell the truth? Write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast the views of Machiavelli and Hythloday on the role of dissimulation and sincerity.

3. "They are sustained by the ancient principles of religion, which are so powerful and of such authority that they keep their princes in power whatever they do, however they live. These are the only princes who have states that they do not defend and subjects that they do not govern; the states, though undefended, are never taken from them, and the subjects, though ungoverned, neither protest, nor try to break away, nor could revolt if they had a mind to. These, then, are the only safe and happy governments." *(The Prince, Chap 11, pp. 31-32)*

Would Machiavelli consider Utopia to be "safe and happy" government? Using *The Prince* and *Utopia*, write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast the authors’ views on "safe and happy" government.

If you wish, you may write this essay by creating an imaginary debate or dialogue between two characters, Machiavelli and Raphael Hythloday. Thus, an addendum to the above prompt would be like this:

3b). Construct a debate between Machiavelli and Raphael concerning the ideal political system as expressed in their respective texts. Follow the format used for the debate concerning private property, but in this essay focus on political systems proper. Use the texts to construct your argument and explicate quotations with your analysis of passages through the characters. Due to the unique nature of this assignment, it is highly recommended that you consult
your section teacher while building your case.
Note: Your debate or dialogue must revolve around a central thesis.

Length: 5-7 pages
Due: At lecture, Tuesday October 28. Please hand your essay to your section teacher after lecture. Don’t forget Turnitin.com.