The purpose of this assignment is to read and analyze one of the most important books ever written on politics. It can be a difficult read that requires some critical thought. It is required reading in many AP European History courses at other high schools and is often referred to in multiple-choice questions or used as an essay topic on the AP Exam. It provides a basis for the foundation of modern diplomacy and Western political systems.

After reading the entire text, answer each of the following questions as directly as possible. Use complete sentences. Each response should be a paragraph in length (minimum of 7 sentences). Responses must be typed, double-spaced and uploaded to Google Classroom. **If you cannot or prefer not to buy The Prince, the full text of it is linked on my website. Also I have some copies available that you can borrow and the Yorktown Library has about six copies available to check out.**

Provide textual evidence (i.e. quotes) from the book to support your responses, but make sure that the majority of the answer consists of analysis in your own words. If you quote, then explain after the quote what you think it means or implies (personal analysis). Respond to each question individually and in order. Number your responses accordingly. **The assignment is worth 70 points (10 points per question) and your participation in the seminar will be worth up to 30 points (this will go in the gradebook as a combined grade out of 100 points).**

**Part I – Machiavelli’s views on the nature of man and rulers:**
1. Are humans fundamentally good or evil? Consider what constitutes ‘good’ or ‘evil’ in this context and during the time period of the Renaissance.
2. How should a prince rule? What personal qualities make a prince an effective ruler?
3. What are the types of principalities that existed? What is the best type of principality and why?

**Part II – What are Machiavelli’s views on:**
4. Realism v. Idealism: Which one is more important for a prince to use when making decisions and why?
5. The importance of learning from history. What is an example he provides of one good ruler and one bad ruler from the book and what did they do that made them “good” or “bad”?

**Part III – Machiavelli on virtue, religion and Italy:**
6. Can and should rulers use religion or religious values in governing and decision making? What is virtue and is it needed for a ruler to make decisions?
7. What does Machiavelli want to happen to Italy?

**Suggestion:** Make a concerted effort to read and interpret the book without the assistance of outside sources or talking to other people about it. We will have a seminar to debate and discuss Machiavelli’s views and ideas. You should have a better understanding of The Prince after that. Do your best to think about the text critically.