

## Essay Three

### Humanities 3, Spring 2010

**Overview:** This essay asks you to explain, analyze, and evaluate the political philosophy in one or more of the texts we have read during the class (More, Machiavelli, or Shakespeare).

**Format:**

- Develop a sophisticated, arguable, and insightful thesis in response to ONE of the topics listed below.
- Typed, double-spaced
- 4-6 pages
- Cite sources using MLA format (see: <http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/legacylib/mlahcc.html>)
- Stapled
- Staple Essay Grading Rubric to the last page

**Topics:**

A. In Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chapter XV, he writes:

“Many writers have imagined republics and principalities that have never been seen nor known to exist in reality. For there is such a distance between how one lives and how one ought to live, that anyone who abandons what is done for what ought to be done achieves his downfall rather than his preservation. A man who wishes to profess goodness at all times will come to ruin among so many who are not good. Therefore, it is necessary for a prince who wishes to maintain himself to learn how not to be good, and to use this knowledge or not to use it according to necessity.” (p. 53)

How does Machiavelli develop this idea in the rest of his book? (Give at least two solid examples.) Does his critique of “imagined republics” apply to More’s *Utopia*? Use one or two examples from More’s book to support your claim.

B. Analyze Gonzalo’s speech in V.1.205-213 in terms of its relationship to the rest of the play focusing on the degree to which it accurately reflects/analyzes the events of the play itself. How does it serve as a commentary on the political philosophy represented by the play as a whole?

C. Do you think the political philosophy of *The Tempest* (the play taken as a whole, not the view a particular character) more closely resembles that of *The Prince* or *Utopia*? (You need not limit yourself to artificially choosing between the two books, but you need to form some kind of interpretation regarding the political philosophy taken by the play in terms of the ideas represented in the other two books.)