

English III Honors Summer Reading Assignment  
*The Prince* by Niccolò Machiavelli  
ISBN: 978-0486272740

*Machiavellian* (adj) refers to a “cunning, scheming, and unscrupulous” person, especially one involved in politics.

Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527) was an Italian diplomat who eventually became somewhat infamous for his manuscript that was eventually printed in 1532. Now viewed as one of the fathers of political science, his book pragmatically advises on how to successfully rule a State or Province by analyzing examples of the acclaimed as well as the imperfect rulers of the past.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

*Please type your assignment while adhering to all standards of MLA format (margins, heading, page numbers, etc.). If you need a sample of the format, [click this link](#).*

***You must have a complete, printed copy of this assignment on the first day of class.***

Once returned, this study guide will help you study for the comprehensive assessment of the novel.

**PART I:** Read the DEDICATION before Chapter I and answer these questions *in your own words*:

1. Why and for whom was this book written?
2. With the information that you have in the text, do some research. Explain what was happening at the time (1513) in Italy, especially regarding Medici and Machiavelli.

**PART II:** Identify the part of speech and the definition(s) of the following vocabulary words:

eschewing	inochate	ecclesiastical	potentate	asseverating
eminence	sagacious	acquisition	contingencies	licentious
malignity	aggrandizement	venerable	liberal	indolent
odious/odium	axiom	Pontiff	miserly	artifice
efface	extirpated	instrumentality	sumptuous	unerring
insolence	oligarchies	foment	parsimony	impetuosity
scruple	pusillanimity	dissension	rapacious	vicissitudes

**PART III:** Before you begin reading the rest of the book, you will do some research on some of the people and groups used as examples throughout the book. For each of the following, write a *brief* description (*in your own words; please don't copy/paste*) that will help you to establish its context:

Italian Renaissance	Philip of Macedon	Romagna	Pope Alexander VI
Lorenzo di Piero de' Medici	Philip II of Macedon	Orsini, Colonnese, Baglione, Vitelli	Cesare Borgia (Duke Valentino)
Francesco Sforza	Alexander the Great	Hiero the Syracusan	Scipio
Ludovico Sforza	Antiochus	Agathocles the Sicilian	Messer Annibale Bentivoglio
the Venetians	the Florentines	Carthaginian	Canneschi
Pope Julius II	Kingdom of Darius	Nabis, Prince of Sparta	Marcus the Philosopher
Charles VII of France	Cyrus	<i>condottieri</i>	Commodus
Louis XI of France	Theseus	Philopoemon (Achaean)	Pertinax
Louis XII of France	Romulus	Hannibal	Severus
Pandolfo Petrucci	Caracalla	Maximinus	Ferdinand of Aragon

**PART IV:** As you read the book, you will add more details to the above descriptions (such as Machiavelli's analysis on the topic or any details you find while reading the book).

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