

*Dissertation Defense: Andrea Polegato*

**Il linguaggio politico del primo Machiavelli: prudenza, virtù e giustizia nelle lettere amministrative e diplomatiche (1498-1503)**

*Friday, April 10, 2015*

*9:00 am*

*Ballantine Hall 340*

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While Niccolò Machiavelli's cultural and political formation has been traditionally evaluated through the study of his major political treatise *The Prince* (1513), more recently scholars have turned their attention to his writings at the time of Florence's Second Chancery (1498–1512) before the return of the Medici. This material — composed of official, semi-official and private letters— provides information about Machiavelli's day-to-day administrative and political activities. It also represents an important witness of the administrative and political language shared by the officers of the Florentine Republic and assimilated by a young and relatively inexperienced Machiavelli. The very recent publication of the majority of Machiavelli's correspondence now makes it possible to identify, categorize, and analyze specific terms, images, and issues representing the political culture of the Florentine Republic's Second Chancery in a time of constant war. Through the analysis of three key concepts, prudence, virtue, and justice, which shaped the decision making process of Florentine institutions, this thesis examines the extent to which the Florentine political and administrative environment played a role in the development of Machiavelli's political thought.



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*Committee*

*Dr. Massimo Scalabrini, Chair*

*French & Italian*

*Dr. Marco Arnaudo*

*French & Italian*

*Dr. Andrea Ciccarelli*

*French & Italian*

*Dr. H. Wayne Storey*

*French & Italian*

*Dr. Fabio Raimondi*

*University of Salerno*

If you would like to attend, please contact the Graduate Secretary, Casey Green,  
at 812-855-1088 or [fritgs@indiana.edu](mailto:fritgs@indiana.edu)