I. Moral standards in politics

   A. Having conventional virtues v. reputation/appearance of having them
      Satiric commentaries on Cicero’s De Officiis
      1. Generosity and miserliness
      2. Mercy and cruelty
      3. Integrity/keeping promises
   B. Political actions should be judged by their effects, not by their intrinsic rightness
      1. Negative constraints on actions
      2. Positive goals guiding actions

II. Fortune’s role in human life

   A. What is Fortune?
   B. How to deal with her

III. Discourses on Livy: expansionist Roman republic as the model

   A. Historical cycle of different forms of government
   B. Mixed government as best government
      1. Sparta (mixed government) v. Athens (democratic government)
      2. Rome (mixed government)
         a. Conflict between the nobility and the people
      3. Sparta v. Rome

IV. Highest end of any city is glory or greatness (grandezza)

   A. What is glory?
   B. How to achieve it
      1. Statecraft
      2. Republics superior to principalities