

Leadership in International Contexts

LDSP 307-01, Spring 2008
Tuesday/Thursday 12:45-2:00 pm
243
Jepson Hall 102

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“If the United Nations does not attempt to chart a course for the world's people in the first decades of the new millennium, **who will?**” Kofi Annan (emphasis added)

Course Description

Everyday when watching television news or reading a news Internet site, we are exposed to culturally specific and internationally disseminated information about leadership practices, decisions, and events across the globe. Sometimes we respond incredulously, pondering the “common sense” differences between leadership at home and abroad. Other times, we react with outrage wondering why the “world’s leadership” does not come together to alleviate suffering, war, poverty, trafficking, or other urgent global problem that cry out for leadership. In order to answer these questions and explore how leadership unfolds globally, students of leadership must ask a number of questions including: Who are the players? What governs their behaviors, ideas, values, and goals? What effect does globalization have on leadership at home and abroad? Are there international standards of justice/power/authority or international expectations for leadership? What is at the heart of leadership internationally and does it differ from leadership locally?

Because of today’s level of interconnectivity, it is no longer sufficient to consider leadership singly on either global or local levels; rather leadership internationally reflects how the global and the local referentially connect, influencing and shaping each other. Thus, in this course, students will adopt a “bifocal” approach to leadership, embracing both a close-up and far away approach to leadership. Rather than examining different examples of leadership from around the world (i.e. country to country, different national settings), we will concentrate on the nexus of leadership, exploring the ways in which leaders – national leaders, international NGOs, social movement activists, transnational businesspeople – negotiate both local and international contexts. Theoretically, students will ground their analyses of international leadership in globalization, transnationalism, nationalism, and cultural theories.

Course Objectives

This course aims to

1. Introduce students to major globalization (and other theoretical) debates and theories,
2. Examine how globalization and nationalism influence leadership within

- international and national contexts,
3. Explore international notions of power, authority, and justice,
 4. Address the ways in which leadership internationally confronts global problems, and
 5. Unpack the different levels of international leadership players, rethinking leadership outside of our “local” prism.

Required Texts

2008 Lechner, Frank and John Boli, eds. *The Globalization Reader*. Blackwell Publishing: Malden, MA.

Select International Newspapers

Other texts to be determined as semester progresses

Course Requirements & Grading

Critical Reviews	20%
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Students will turn in 10 weekly reviews of about 600 or so words (approximately 1 single-spaced page). In the reviews, students will critically address main arguments, raise questions about the material (“thought” questions stemming from the readings), synthesize the readings analytically, and apply the week’s ideas to a contemporary international leadership question, issue, or example. Papers are due at 8 am Thursday each week and should incorporate the full week’s material; late papers and short papers will not be accepted. Please turn in papers electronically (blackboard and email).

Course Participation	10%
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Participation includes leading classes, actively contributing substance to discussions, introducing materials, and actively taking part in all class activities. It is not “attendance” although absences & tardies will negatively impact the grade.

Final Examination	20%
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Students will take a final essay exam that covers all course materials. Students will have opportunity to assist in writing the exam.

Take Home Midterm	25%
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Students will have approximately a take-home midterm. While students will have the exam for 1 week, they only have 3 hours to complete it.

Term Paper	25%
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Please see assignment sheet distributed in class and posted on blackboard.

Policies

Attendance

The attendance policy is simple: attend and attend on time. Class discussion depends on students coming to class and coming to class well-prepared.

Honor Code

The Jepson School supports and adheres to the provisions of the Honor System as sanctioned by the School of Arts and Sciences. Every piece of written work in this course must have the word, “pledged” along with the student’s signature, signifying the following: “I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.”

Late Work

I will not accept late work except under *the most* exceptional conditions. Except as noted, all assignments are due in class. I will not accept assignments if students do not attend or come late to class.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Although there are fixed readings and a number of predetermined topics, this course’s schedule of topics and readings is intended to be flexible and responsive to student interests and questions. Thus, as this course employs a *collaborative syllabus*, which requires students to take ownership of not only their learning but also the class as a whole, the schedule and material will change with regularity. Students will receive schedule updates with enough time to complete readings. For some topics, students will read different materials that they will then introduce in our general discussion. Throughout the semester we will do “leadership checks” to address the relationship between the topic-at-hand and its application to the study and/or practice of leadership.

I. Globalization Debates

In this first section, we examine what is globalization and how the global differs from the international, the national, and the local. This section sets the theoretical stage for future discussions within the course. Each week, we will seek leadership cases to which we can apply that week’s theoretical exploration (students will be assigned presentations).

Introductions

January 15: No class (we will make up this day)

January 17: Class Overview

Globalization Debates and Connections

January 22: Lechner & Boli, Part I

January 24: Lechner & Boli Chs 6-8

Interconnectivity

January 29: Lechner & Boli Chs 10-12

January 31: *New York Times* magazine excerpt on Jihadis

Globalization, Modernity, and the Nation-State

February 5: Lechner & Boli Chs 9, 25-26

Kenya Crisis (in your newspapers)

February 7: Lechner & Boli Chs 28-29

State of the Union Speeches, 2007 and 2008 (on blackboard)

February 12: continue with nationalism

The Re-Ordering of the World

February 14: Lechner & Boli, Chs 24 (reread), 32, 34-35

World Bank Report on youth

<http://go.worldbank.org/N17EUZ4T31>

Read your newspapers for INGO stories

February 19: Lechner & Boli Part VIII except 45 & 47

Development, Westernization, & Globalization: Leadership in Action

February 21: Lechner & Boli 36-37

“Fear and Money in Dubai” *New Left Review*

<http://newleftreview.org/?view=2635>

February 26: 60 Minutes Video on Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid (watch parts 1 & 2)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/10/12/60minutes/main3361753.shtml>

February 28: Lechner & Boli Part X

March 4: Lechner & Boli Chs 38, 40

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/27/magazine/27world-t.html?pagewanted=all>

March 6: No class. Take-home exam due: email it to efaiet@richmond.edu and put in digital dropbox on BB

Start reading Yunus as we will move through it quickly.

SPRING BREAK (we need to make up 1 long class that is not reflected in the schedule)

II. Leadership in Action

Global Problems and Solutions: Microfinance Initiatives

March 18: Lechner & Boli Chs 20-21

Yunus; Intro, 1-4

March 20: Yunus; 5-8

March 25: Yunus, 9-12

March 27: Yunus, 13-end

Everyone should come to class having skimmed the Internet for critiques of Yunus' program

WE WILL CHOOSE OUR NEXT TEXT FOR THIS SECTION

April 1:

April 3:

April 8:

April 10:

April 15: Student Presentations (group papers the 15th)

April 17: Student Presentations

Reading the World: Leadership on the International Stage

April 22:

April 24:

There is a final exam in this course. Please check the exam calendar for details.