

LDST 303 LEADERSHIP IN POLITICAL CONTEXTS FALL 2008 - COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Thomas J. Shields
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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and by appointment

Class meeting time and location: Monday, Wednesday 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Rm. 103, North Court

COURSE REQUIRED READINGS

The classroom work in this course will center on the reading assignments. Since the course involves as much experiential activity and discussion as possible, and with minimum lecturing, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you complete the assigned readings prior to each class.

Texts:

- Clift, E. and Brazaitis, T. (2003). *Madam President: Women Blazing the Leadership Trail*. New York, NY: Routledge Press. ISBN: 0-415-93432-X
- Coles, R. (2005). *Political leadership: Stories of Power and Politics From Literature and Life*. New York, NY: Modern Library. ISBN: 0-8129-7170-1
- Edelman, M. (1988). *Constructing the Political Spectacle*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0-226-18399-8
- Kellerman, B. (1984). *The Political Presidency: Practice of Leadership*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0-19-504037-6
- McCain, J. (2000). *Faith of My Fathers: A Family Memoir*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers. ISBN-13: 9780060957865
- Obama, B. (2004). *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*. San Francisco, CA: Three Rivers Press. ISBN-13: 9781400082773
- Tucker, R. (1995). *Politics as Leadership*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press. ISBN: 0-8262-1023-6

Optional

- Moeser, J. and Dennis, R. (1982). *The Politics of Annexation: Oligarchic Power in a Southern City*. Cambridge, MA: Schenkman Publishing Company, Inc. ISBN-0-87073-502-0

Articles:

In addition, there are several **online readings** that are listed as required. You can access these articles under the Course Reserves on the **Blackboard website**.

Newspapers:

Students are strongly encouraged to read a daily newspaper, in printed form or online, in order to follow stories that provide concrete examples for the study of political leadership. In addition, every Friday there will be a discussion of various contexts of political leadership that occurred that week in the news. Each of the following: *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, or *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, can be accessed on line at www.nytimes.com,

www.washingtonpost.com, or www.gateway-va.com. *The New York Times* requires a log in, but the other three can be accessed immediately.

COURSE POLICIES AND STANDARDS

The following class policies are established for the purpose of allowing students enrolled in leadership courses to establish practices that demonstrate mature and responsible behavior toward their work and each other.

Class Attendance

Attendance and participation in class and group activities/meetings are very serious components of the class. Class attendance **is required** and will be recorded. Absences due to health or sports must be substantiated in writing by the appropriate university official. Absences without valid excuses will be penalized in the final grade. After two absences the student's grade will be affected. More than two unexcused absences will result in a half grade reduction for each session missed. For example, if you miss three classes and you were to receive a B, then your grade would be lowered to a B-. PLEASE NOTE: Missing more than five will result in a grade of F. In addition, lateness will not be tolerated.

Event Attendance

Attendance at events on the evenings and even on the weekends will be required of the students. These events will be political and will be related to the class. Obviously, a student might have a conflict but should make every effort to attend.

Absence During In-Class Graded Assignments

Unexcused absences from in-class graded assignments may not be made up. Any difficulties or problems should be brought to the instructor's attention as soon as possible (well before the assignment or exam is scheduled.) Requests for extensions will be granted only under dire circumstances.

Participation

Every student should come to class having read the material and ready to participate in class discussion. In addition, each student will be assigned to a group. On certain days, members from each group will be responsible for posting a response to the readings on the Blackboard system. Students should come to class with a prepared response and ready to lead a discussion with the instructor.

Late Papers

Late papers or assignments receive a half grade deduction per day. For example, if a paper was due on a Wednesday and the student handed it in on Thursday morning, than the student would be dropped from a B to a B- in the final grade. Papers will not be accepted via e-mail.

Honor Code

The Jepson School supports and adheres to the provisions of the Honor System sanctioned by the School of Arts and Sciences. Every piece of written work presented by individual students must have the honor pledge and the student's signature on it. ***"I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work."***

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments are designed to create a framework in which students are treated fairly and equally. Please remember that critical analysis of the assigned readings is necessary. The readings, articles, and ideas from the course will need to be incorporated into each assignment. Please utilize the *American Psychological Association (APA)* style in referencing material. Every quote and non-original thought should have a reference citation.

COURSE GRADING

20% Individual essays (10% each)
25% Midterm
25% Individual research paper (as part of group project)
15% Final
15% Attendance and class participation

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

Defining Political Leadership

Mon., Aug. 25 Introduction

Wed., Aug. 27 **What is Leadership?**
Online Reading: Burns, *Leadership* excerpt pp. 9-45
Group: A

Week 2

Mon., Sept. 1 **What is Political Leadership?**
Online Reading: Burns, *Leadership* excerpt pp. 105-140
Burns, "A Note on the Study of Political Leadership"
Group: B

Wed., Sept. 3 **Values in Political Leadership**
Online Reading: Heifetz, "Political Leadership: Managing the Public's Problem Solving" article
Heifetz, *Leadership Without Easy Answers* excerpt
Group: C

Week 3

Mon., Sept. 8 ***NO CLASS!***

Wed., Sept. 10 **Explanation of Group Project**

Week 4

Political Leadership and Literature

- Mon., Sept. 15** **Political Stories from the Past**
Reading: Coles, Chap. 1, pp. 35-42, 65-135
Online reading: Woodruff, *Leadership in Ancient World*, pp. 13-27
Group: **D**
- Wed., Sept. 17** **Political Stories from the Twentieth-Century**
Reading: Coles, Chap. 2, pp. 151-258
Group: **E**

Week 5

Politics as Leadership

- Mon., Sept. 22** **Politics as Leadership**
Reading: Tucker, Chap. 1 and 2
Group: **A**
- Wed., Sept. 24** **Politics as Leadership**
Reading: Tucker, Chap. 3
Group: **B**

Week 6

Constructing Politics

- Mon., Sept. 29** **Constructing Politics**
Reading: Edelman, Chap. 1 (pp. 1-11)
Group: **C**
- Wed., Oct. 1** **Constructing Politics**
Reading: Edelman, Chap. 2 (pp. 12-36), Chap. 3 (pp. 37-64)
Group: **D**

Week 7

Bad Political Leadership and Midterm

- Mon., Oct. 6** **Bad Political Leadership**
Online reading: Kellerman, *Bad Leadership* excerpt
 Lipman-Blumen, *The Allure of Toxic Leaders* excerpt
 Temes, *Dirty Hands*, pp. 98-109
Group: **E**
TBA **REQUIRED: Mayoral Debate at St. Catherine's School**

Wed., Oct. 8 Midterm

***** Fall Break ***** READ OBAMA and MCCAIN BOOKS

Week 8

Mon., Oct. 13 No Class

Theory and Practice of Presidential Leadership

Wed., Oct. 15 Political Skill and Politicking

Reading: Kellerman, Chap. 1-5 (pp. 3-44)

Group: A

Fri., Oct. 17

12:30-1:25 pm

REQUIRED: CCE BROWN BAG LUNCH

“An Election Unlike Any Other: The 2008 Mayoral Election in Richmond, Virginia, Dr. John Moeser
Brown Alley Room of Weinstein Hall

Week 9

Mon., Oct. 20

Barack Obama

Reading:

Obama, *Dreams from Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*

Group:

B

Wed., Oct. 22

Barack Obama

Reading:

Obama, *Dreams from Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*

Group:

C

7 pm

REQUIRED: Mayoral Debate at the University of Richmond

Tyler Haynes Commons

Fri., Oct. 24

12:30-1:25 pm

OPTIONAL: CCE BROWN BAG LUNCH

The '08 Elections: Are We on the Verge of Something Big?

Week 10

Mon., Oct. 27

John McCain

Reading:

McCain, *Faith of My Fathers: A Family Memoir*

Group:

D

Wed., Oct. 29

John McCain

Reading:

McCain, *Faith of My Fathers: A Family Memoir*

Group:

E

Week 11

National Elections as a Context in Political Leadership

Mon., Nov. 3 **George Bush, (R) v. Bill Clinton, (D)**
Movie: *The War Room*

Tues., Nov. 4 **Election Day**
Assignment: **REQUIRED: Work the polls for your candidate**

Wed., Nov. 5 **George Bush, (R) v. Bill Clinton, (D)**
Movie: *The War Room*

Week 12

Women in Political Leadership

Mon., Nov. 10 **Why Not a Woman?**
Reading: Clift and Brazaitis, Introduction and Chap. 1

Wed., Nov. 12 **Why Not a Woman?**
Reading: Examination of Case Studies from *Madam President*

Week 13

“Now What?” – From Politics to Governing

Mon., Nov. 17 **Political Campaigns to Political Governing**
Reading: TBA

Wed., Nov. 19 **“Now What?”**
Movie: *The Candidate*

Week 14

Mon., Nov. 24 **“Now What?”**
Movie: *The Candidate*

Wed., Nov. 26 **No Class – Thanksgiving Break**

Week 15

Mon., Dec. 1 **Group Presentations**

Wed., Dec. 3 **Group Presentations**

Final exam **Monday, December 15, 7-10 pm**

Assignments

Individual Assignment #1 Interview with a Politician (Political Candidate) or political operatives

In this assignment, you will need to interview one person who is a politician or is running for office. Or, you can interview two political operatives. These political operatives can be working as an aide to a politician, as a member of a political campaign or for a political party. In your interview, you want to ask about their backgrounds and experiences and their views of politics. You also want to ask them specific questions concerning their ideas of leadership in a political context. In your oral report and in your paper you want to provide ideas from the readings in your analysis.

The oral report will be approximately five minutes, while the paper will be five pages in length and include references to the readings.

Individual Assignment #2 Participating in the Political Process

In this assignment, you will need to participate in the political process for at least 10 hours. Some examples of participating in the political process, could be volunteering for a political campaign, working with the College Democrats or Republicans, and attending meetings of the local Democrat or Republican parties. You will need to keep a journal and time sheet detailing your experiences.

The paper will need to take references from your journal and relate them to some of our discussions in class.

Individual Assignment #3 Examination of Movie and Speaker

In this assignment, you will need to write a paper that examines the movies that we watched in class and the speakers that visited class. Your paper will need to discuss the movies and the paper in depth and relate these to readings from class. You will need to also bring in additional readings from outside of class that relate to the speaker and the movie.

The paper for this assignment will need to be four pages in length.

Research Paper

In this assignment, you will need to write a large research paper that examines leadership in a political context. You will need to provide to me a one page proposal on what you will write on by Friday, September 26th. A preliminary, but carefully prepared bibliography should accompany the proposal.