

Foundations of Leadership Studies

LDST 101/03

Spring 2009

TR 11:15-12:30

Jepson Hall 107

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Office Hours

Tuesday 3:30-5:00

(and by appointment)

This course is designed as a beginning point for the examination of the issues and concepts involved in the study of leadership by focusing on the nature and character of leadership itself. The readings and class discussions will address several basic questions: What is leadership and its elements? How does context affect the nature of leadership? And, what are the moral purposes of leadership properly understood?

By focusing on the *foundations* of leadership studies, this course will not be a survey of the existing literature on leadership studies. Rather, it will proceed from a careful reading of one classic text that touches upon the problems and prospects of leadership as a manifestation of the problems and prospects of human nature. Our primary text, Thucydides' *The Peloponnesian War*, is a book that will deepen our understanding of the often elusive concept of leadership.

Thucydides' history can be helpfully supplemented by Donald Kagan's *The Peloponnesian War* and it is recommended that this book be read through prior to turning to Thucydides' own account of the war. It is important to keep in mind that Kagan's work, or any other secondary work, is not a substitute for grappling with the original history, but is only a guide to that more difficult work.

In addition to the primary readings, you will be expected to keep abreast of current events by reading a major daily newspaper such as the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*.

Attendance and participation are expected and will be reflected as part of the final grade (15%). There will also be a mid-term examination (25%); a short paper on a topic to be assigned (25%); and a comprehensive final examination (35%). The grade for participation will also include unannounced quizzes and additional brief paper assignments to guide class discussion.

Participation will be calculated on quality, not simply quantity. It is expected that all the readings for a given date will be done in advance of that class meeting and everyone will be prepared to discuss the assigned materials.

Required Text:

Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*

Recommended Text:

Donald Kagan, *The Peloponnesian War*

Assignments

I. Leadership and the Human Condition

A. Notions of Justice (January 13, 15)

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (handout)

Aristotle, *Politics* (handout)

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (handout)

B. The Presidential Inauguration (January 20, 22)

C. Truth and Opinion (January 27, 29)

Plato, *The Republic* (handout)

Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery" (internet)

James Madison, *The Federalist*, No. 10 (handout)

Leo Strauss, "Jerusalem and Athens" (reserve)

D. The Study of Leadership (February 3, 5)

James MacGregor Burns, *Leadership* (handout)

Thomas Wren, ed., *Leader's Companion*, (handout)

T.L. Price and D.A. Hicks, "A General Theory of Leadership Ethics," (reserve)

Robert K. Faulkner, *The Case for Greatness: Honorable Ambition and its Critics* (reserve)

E. The Nature of Thucydides' Achievement (February 10)

Thomas Hobbes, "On the Life and History of Thucydides," *The Peloponnesian War*, pp. 569-586

II. Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*

Fear and Necessity: The War Comes (February 12, 17, 19)

Book I: pp. 1-85

Nature and Convention: The Periclean Problem (February 24, 26; March 3)

Book II: pp. 89-153

*******MID-TERM EXAMINATION: March 5*******

Justice and Expediency: Mytilene, Plataea, and Corcyra (March 17, 19, 24)

Book III: pp. 157-225

The War Continues: Varieties of Leadership (March 26, 31)

Book IV: pp. 229-307

Justice and Morality: The Melian Dialogue (April 2, 7)

Book V: pp. 311-372

The City and Man: The Case of Alcibiades (April 9, 14)

Book VI: pp. 375-440

Goodness and Greatness: The Case of Nicias (April 16, 21)

Book VII: pp. 443-499

The End of the History (April 23)

Book VIII: pp. 503-568