LEADERSHIP AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES  

FALL 2011

LDST 102

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Introduction

The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the kinds of issues explored in the Jepson School of Leadership Studies, primarily from the perspective of the social sciences. Together we study some fundamental conceptions of the human condition and social interaction. Considerable emphasis is placed on examples of leaders and leadership. We read and discuss relevant works from psychology and related works from other disciplines, endeavoring to understand leaders and leadership in several domains, including politics, exploration, and social change.

A calendar listing topics and reading for each day follows. The assigned books for the course are: Readings about The Social Animal, edited by Joshua and Elliot Aronson; The Endurance: Shackleton’s Legendary Antarctic Expedition by Caroline Alexander; The Evolution of Desire, by David Buss; Outliers, by Malcolm Gladwell; One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest by Ken Kesey; The Selling of the President, 1968 by Joe McGinniss; Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution by James McPherson; and Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare. Several assigned articles appear in Readings about The Social Animal, as noted below. Most other assigned articles and chapters are available on e-reserve. The e-reserve number for each such reading is noted in parentheses at the end of the assignment. A few other articles will be handed out in class.

Course requirements

1. Members of the class are expected to attend each class and to participate in discussion.

2. Short (1,000 word) papers commenting on the reading are due on Friday, September 9, and Friday, October 14, at 5:00 PM

3. There are two exams on the reading and class discussions, the first on Tuesday, September 27 and the second on Tuesday, November 1.

4. A ten-page paper is due on Friday, December 9, at 5:00 PM. It should discuss The Endurance: Shackleton’s Legendary Antarctic Expedition or One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest or both in terms of what we have studied in the first two sections of the course.
6. Optional, extra credit “quote quizzes” will be scheduled later in the semester, testing your memory of quotes from William Shakespeare, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Your course grade is determined by weighting the requirements above as follows: class participation, 20; each exam, 20; each short paper, 10; term paper, 20.

If you take the optional quote quizzes, there are two possible Shakespeare quotes weighted 10, two possible Lincoln quotes weighted 5, and a King quote weighted 5. Grades on the quote quizzes will only be averaged into your grade if they raise it. You may take any number of quizzes that you wish. Only the best 20 points from quote quizzes will be used toward raising your grade. Schedules for the quote quizzes will be announced in class.

Class Schedule and Readings

Tuesday, August 23

Introduction

Thursday, August 25

Freud’s Model of the Psyche


Tuesday, August 30

Little Hans and Moral Development


Thursday, September 1

Moral Development and Self-Control


**Tuesday, September 6**

**The Self in Social Interaction**


**Thursday, September 8**

**Cognitive Dissonance Theory**


**Friday, September 9, First Short Paper Due**

**Tuesday, September 13**
**Outliers**


**Thursday, September 15**

**Nature, Nurture, and Intelligence**


**Tuesday, September 20**

**Self-Fulfilling Prophecies**


Thursday, September 22

**Some Intergroup Dynamics**


Tuesday, September 27

**First Exam**

Thursday, September 29

**The Evolution of Desire**


Tuesday, October 4

**Obedience, Conformity and Culture**


Thursday, October 6

Group Polarization


Friday, October 7 – Wednesday, October 12, Fall Break

Thursday, October 13

Principles of Persuasion


Friday, October 14, Second Short Paper Due

Tuesday, October 18

The Elaboration Likelihood Model


Thursday, October 20

Shakespeare’s Leaders: Cassius, Brutus, Antony and Henry

*Julius Caesar*, Acts I, II, and III, and parts of *Henry V* to be handed out in class.

Tuesday, October 25
Lincoln’s Legacy of Leadership


Selected Lincoln writings and speeches handed out in class.

Thursday, October 27

**Martin Luther King: Letter from a Birmingham Jail**


Tuesday, November 1

Second Exam

Thursday, November 3

**Performance and Leadership**


Tuesday, November 8
Endurance, 1


Thursday, November 10

Endurance, 2


Tuesday, November 15

Endurance, 3


Thursday, November 17

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, 1


Tuesday, November 22

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, 2


Tuesday, November 29

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, 3

Thursday, December 1

Review and Conclusion