Syllabus: Leadership and the Humanities-Section 5

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 1pm-4pm.  
Class Meeting Time: 10:30-11:45am, Wednesday and Friday  
Class Location: Jepson 102

Course Description:

Here is the official description of the course: Introduction to leadership as an object of study through examination of its historical foundations and intellectual development. Readings selected from history, literature, philosophy, political theory, religion, and social theory.

This section of the course will focus on political leadership and political ethics. In particular, we will focus on the moral responsibilities and virtues of political leaders as well as ordinary citizens. This means that we will focus on questions like:

1. What virtues should political leaders have?  
2. Why should we have political leaders? What justifies political power?  
3. How should political leaders behave? Are the ethical standards that apply to political leaders different from the ethical standards that apply to ordinary citizens?  
4. What are moral obligations of citizens? For example, do citizens have obligations to obey unjust laws?  
5. Can citizens resist public officials? Is violent resistance every acceptable?

We will read some of the classics in the history of political thought as well as some more contemporary books and articles. During the last few weeks of the course, we will focus on questions relating to leadership in war.

Course Requirements and Grades:

Response Papers: 15% of final grade
You need to turn in a 1-2 page response paper on Friday of every week unless I indicate otherwise on the syllabus. The response paper briefly summarizes a central argument, position, or theme in one of the readings and offers some critical comments on this argument, position, or theme. The purpose of this assignment is to get you thinking critically about the readings. Each response paper is graded on a “pass-fail” basis. I will not give you comments on your response papers unless you explicitly ask for them.

Long Papers: 40% of final grade (20% each)
There will be two longer papers (about 1500-2000 words each). I will give you suggested prompts for these papers several weeks before they are due. But you are free to develop your own prompts as long as you consult with me first.

Midterm Examination: 15%  
The midterm exam will involve several short answer questions and one essay.

Final Examination: 25%  
The final exam will involve several short answer questions and two essays.

Class Attendance and Participation: 5%  
Class attendance and participation are mandatory. If you have more than two unexcused absences, you will receive a 0 on your participation grade. If you have more than three unexcused absences, you fail the class. Acceptable excuses are sickness and family emergencies.

**My Responsibilities:**
- I will come to class fully prepared to lecture or lead discussion on the readings.
- I will return your papers with comments in a timely fashion.
- I will always try to treat you with respect and fairness. This means that I will always do my best to grade your work fairly. It also means that I admit that I sometimes make mistakes.

**Your Responsibilities:**
- You should arrive at class fully prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you will spend some time thinking about the readings and come to class with some questions or critical points prepared.
- You should do your best to always attend class.
- You should approach the coursework with integrity. Most obviously, this means that you must never cheat. But it also means that you will also turn your assignments in on time and do your best on each assignment.

**Laptop Policy:** Please do not use your laptop during class. If there are any readings on blackboard, please print these out before you come to class.

**Required Texts:**

Note on the readings: every reading that ends with (*) is available on blackboard. Please print these readings out before class.

**Week 1: Introduction**

August 29: Introduction to the Course
- Overview of the Course
- Cronin, “Thinking and Learning About Leadership”*
- Spitzberg, “Paths of Inquiry into Leadership”*
- Bass, “The Meaning of Leadership”*

August 31: Political Obligation and Natural Law

**Week 2: Citizenship and Political Obligation**

September 5: Civic Virtue
- Plato, “Euthyphro” and “Apology” in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, pp. 1-42.

September 7: Political Obligation
- Plato, “Crito” and “Phaedo” in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, pp. 43-58.
- **Response Paper Due.**

**Week 3: Plato’s Republic**

September 12: Self-Interest and Justice

September 14: Philosopher Kings
- **Response Paper Due**

**Week 4: Political Leadership and Democracy**

September 19: Democracy, Tyranny, and Conclusion

September 21: Ancient Democrats
- Plato, *Protagoras*, 320e–328d*
- Aristotle, *Politics*, pp. 82-85*
- **First Paper is Due.**

**Week 5: Machiavelli**

September 26:
- Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings*, pp. 5-80.

September 28:
- **Response paper due.**

**Week 6: Political Ethics and Dirty Hands**

October 3: Modern Reflections on the Problem of Dirty Hands
- Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation”*

October 5: Torture and Dirty Hands
- Charles Krauthammer, “The Truth about Torture” *The Weekly Standard* *
- In Class Film: “Watch Christopher Hitchens Get Waterboarded”
- **Response Paper Due.**

**Week 7: Midterm**

October 10: Review
- Review for Midterm

October 12:
- **Midterm Exam**
- Fall Break!

**Week 8: Hobbes’ Leviathan**

October 17: Introduction to Leviathan

October 19: The Argument for Absolutism
- **Response Paper Due.**

**Week 9: Consent and Authority**

October 24: Conclusion of Leviathan

October 26: Consent and Authority
- John Locke, *Second Treatise*, pp. 5-42.
- **Response Paper Due.**

**Week 10: Rights and Revolution**

October 31: Property

November 2: Revolution
- **Response Paper Due**

**Week 11: Violent and Non-Violent Resistance**

November 7: Violent Resistance
- Jean-Paul Sartre, “Preface,” *The Wretched of the Earth*, entire*
- Franz Fanon, “On Violence,” *Wretched of the Earth*, pp. 1-62*
- In Class Film: Malcolm X on Self-Defense

November 9: Non-Violent Resistance
- Gandhi, *Selected Political Writings*, read the following essays (all available on blackboard):
  - “On Ahisma”
  - “Non-Violence”
  - “My Path”
  - “On the Verge of It”
  - “Love Not Hate”
  - “Satyagraha, Civil Disobedience, Passive Resistance, Non-Co-operation”
  - “Satyagraha-Not Passive Resistance”
- **Watch Before Class: Bringing Down a Dictator.**
- **Response paper is due.**

**Week 12: War**

November 14: Realism

November 16: Just Cause for War
- **Second paper is due.**
Week 13:

November 21: Thanksgiving!

Week 14: Political Leaders, Soldiers, and War Crimes

November 28: Responsibilities of Political Leaders
- **Watch Before Class: The Fog of War.**

November 30: Ordinary Soldiers and War Crimes
- Response paper due.

Week 15: The Responsibilities of Combatants

December 5: The Responsibilities of Combatants

December 7: Participating in Unjust Wars
- Response Paper Due.