LDST 102: Leadership and the Social Sciences  
Fall 2014

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION: Mon, Wed 1:30-2:45, Jepson 102
CLASS WEBSITE: https://blackboard.richmond.edu

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Chris von Rueden
EMAIL: cvonrued@richmond.edu
OFFICE: Jepson 235
OFFICE HOURS: Tues 10:00-12:00 & by appointment

**Course Description:**
This course is an introduction to the study of leadership from the perspective of the social sciences (e.g. anthropology, psychology, economics). The principal questions we consider include: Why do leadership and followership exist at all in human societies? Are leaders born or made? Do (effective) leaders tend to possess traits like intelligence, extraversion, generosity, or greater physical stature? How much does leadership effectiveness depend on the context, whether situational or cultural? When does leadership fail? We will pay particular attention to gender and leadership, in light of current debates concerning the sexual division of labor in modern society. The goal of the course is not only to expose students to empirical study of leadership but also to stimulate them to think critically about human behavior.

**Readings:**
The readings for this course consist of a mix of empirical social science articles and more popular journal articles or opinion pieces (see Reading List below). All of the readings will be available through BlackBoard, except chapters from the following required books:


**How you will be graded:**

1. Discussion *(15% of grade)*

   The format of the class is a mixture of lecture and open discussion about the readings. You must come prepared to class with questions and comments, having carefully read what is assigned for that class (see Reading List below). In addition, two students will be assigned as
experts for each reading; one student will summarize the main points of the reading for the class (~3 minutes) and then the other student will critique the reading and connect it to the broader themes of the course (~3 minutes). This does not mean that only these students discuss the readings. Students should not be timid and all are expected to contribute to each class discussion. Attendance and lateness are also factored into your discussion grade. I ask that you not leave during class-time unless you are in physical discomfort.

2. Reaction Papers (15% of grade)

You need to write a reaction to a minimum of 15 readings (whether articles or book chapters), throughout the semester. These should be critical evaluations AS WELL AS summaries of the main points of the readings. You will only receive partial credit if you simply summarize or if it appears you didn’t read the entire article. Reaction papers should be turned in at the start of the class during which we are scheduled to discuss the particular reading. The reaction paper should only be a page long, at most two pages (typed, double spaced, 12-point font, 1 inch margins). You must include your name and the title of the reading and use staples if you are turning in more than one page. It is up to you to decide for which of the readings you will turn in reaction papers.

3. Midterm Exam (20% of grade)

The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions having you compare and contrast positions taken by authors we’ve read and material presented in lecture.

4. Final Paper (20% of grade)

The final paper allows you to explore further one of the topics discussed in class. You must develop a clear, theoretically-motivated argument for the paper, in consultation with me. The paper should include a minimum of 7 pages of text (double spaced, 12-point font) and structured into four sections: (1) Introduction, in which you present your argument; (2) Body, in which you defend your argument with literature from class and from your own research (3) Conclusion, in which you restate your argument and situate it within the broader context of the course; (4) References, in which you list your cited articles. Wikipedia and non-scholarly websites are not valid bibliographic sources for papers written in this class. Further details about the final paper will be provided in class.

5. Final Exam (30% of grade)

The final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions having you compare and contrast positions taken by authors we’ve read and material presented in lecture. The final exam is cumulative but may emphasize the latter half of the course.
Notes:

1. To be successful in this course, a student should expect to devote 10-14 hours each week, including class time and time spent on course-related activities.  
   [http://registrar.richmond.edu/services/policies/academic-credit.html](http://registrar.richmond.edu/services/policies/academic-credit.html)

2. Students should notify me within the first two weeks of classes if they will need accommodations for religious observance.  
   [http://registrar.richmond.edu/planning/religiousobs.html](http://registrar.richmond.edu/planning/religiousobs.html)

3. Students with a Disability Accommodation Notice should contact me as early in the semester as possible to discuss arrangements for completing course assignments and exams.  
   [http://disability.richmond.edu](http://disability.richmond.edu)

4. A paper turned in late without an acceptable excuse will be docked 10 percentage points for each day it is late. Makeup exams are given under exceptional circumstances (and require a note from the Dean).

5. Students should be aware of University policies on plagiarism. Plagiarism in any form can result in failing the class or even expulsion. See the following link for advice on avoiding plagiarism.  
   [http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb/english/plagiarism.html](http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb/english/plagiarism.html)

6. The Jepson School supports the provisions of the Honor System. **The shortened version of the honor pledge should be written on every assignment you hand in:** “I pledge that I have neither received nor given unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.”  

7. **Cell phones and laptops may not be used during class. Use of a cell phone or laptop during class will mean I count you as absent that day.**

8. If you ever have questions outside of class, I encourage you to drop by my office. Outside of office hours, it is best to set up an appointment via email to ensure I am in my office when you come by. I’m eager to help students but you must take the initiative to meet with me. Also, I won’t answer big questions by email.

Campus Resources:

**Academic Skills Center** ([http://asc.richmond.edu](http://asc.richmond.edu), 289-8626 or 289-8956): Supports students in assessing their academic strengths and weaknesses; honing their academic skills through teaching effective test preparation, critical reading and thinking, information processing, concentration, and related techniques; working on specific subject areas (e.g. calculus, chemistry, accounting, etc.); and encouraging campus and community involvement.
Career Services (http://careerservices.richmond.edu/ or 289-8547): Assists students in exploring their interests and abilities, choosing a major, connecting with internships and learning experiences, investigating graduate and professional school options, and landing a first job. We encourage students to schedule an appointment with a career advisor during their first year.

Counseling and Psychological Services (http://caps.richmond.edu or 289-8119): Assists students in meeting academic, personal, or emotional challenges. Services include assessment, short-term counseling and psychotherapy, crisis intervention, psychiatric consultation, and related services.

Speech Center (http://speech.richmond.edu or 289-6409): Assists with preparation and practice in the pursuit of excellence in public expression. Recording, playback, coaching and critique sessions offered by teams of student consultants trained to assist in developing ideas, arranging key points for more effective organization, improving style and delivery, and handling multimedia aids for individual and group presentations.

Writing Center (http://writing.richmond.edu or 289-8263): Assists writers at all levels of experience, across all majors. Students can schedule appointments with trained peer writing consultants who offer friendly critiques of written work.

Boatwright Library Research Librarians (http://library.richmond.edu/help/ask.html or 289-8876): Assist students with identifying and locating the best resources for class assignments, research papers and other course projects. Librarians also assist students with questions about citing sources correctly. Students can email, text, or IM a librarian, or schedule a personal research appointment to meet with a librarian in the first floor Research and Collaborative Study area.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Aug 25  Introductions

Aug 27  Theory and Method in the Social Sciences

  • Mooney, C. (2011, April 18). The science of why we don’t believe science. *Mother Jones.*

Sep 1  Nature and Nurture


Sep 3  The Study of Leadership


Sep 8  Evolution of Cooperation in Groups


Sep 10  **Hierarchy and Obedience**


Sep 15  **Hierarchy and Politics**


Sep 17  **Hierarchy and Politics (cont.)**


Sep 22  **Inequality and Inequity**


Sep 24  **Inequality and Inequity (cont.)**


Sep 29  **In-Class Debate: Is the Occupy Movement Driven by Inequality or Inequity?**

Oct 1  
**Does Leadership Improve Cooperation?**


Oct 6  
**Ontogeny of Leadership**


Oct 8  
**Ontogeny of Leadership (cont.)**


Oct 13  
**No Class (Fall Study Break)**

Oct 15  
**MIDTERM**

Oct 20  
**Traits of Effective Leaders, Part 1: Intelligence, Skill, and Age**


Oct 22  
**Traits of Effective Leaders, Part 1: Intelligence, Skill, and Age (cont.)**


Oct 27  
**Traits of Effective Leaders, Part 2: Generosity and Social Networking**

Oct 29  Film: Ongka’s Big Moka

Nov 3  Traits of Effective Leaders, Part 2: Generosity and Social Networking (cont.)


Nov 5  Traits of Effective Leaders, Part 3: Personality and Charisma


Nov 10  Traits of Effective Leaders, Part 3: Personality and Charisma (cont.)


Nov 12  Traits of Effective Leaders, Part 4: Physical Dominance


Nov 17  Gender and Leadership


Nov 19  Gender and Leadership (cont.)

Nov 24    **Gender and Leadership (cont.)**


Nov 26    **No Class (Thanksgiving)**

Dec 1    **Gender and Leadership (cont.)**


Dec 3    **In-Class Debate: How do we increase the proportion of women in leadership?**

Dec 5    **FINAL PAPER due (by 5pm, in my mailbox or at my office)**

Dec 9    **FINAL EXAM (2-5 pm)**
Awarding of Credit

To be successful in this course, a student should expect to devote 10-14 hours each week, including class time and time spent on course-related activities.  
http://registrar.richmond.edu/services/policies/academic-credit.html

Disability Accommodations

Students with a Disability Accommodation Notice should contact their instructors as early in the semester as possible to discuss arrangements for completing course assignments and exams.  
http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/disability-services/policies.html

Honor System

The Jepson School supports the provisions of the Honor System. The shortened version of the honor pledge is: “I pledge that I have neither received nor given unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.”  
http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/honor/

Religious Observance

Students should notify their instructors within the first two weeks of classes if they will need accommodations for religious observance.  
http://registrar.richmond.edu/planning/religiousobs.html