Leadership qualities manifest themselves in a variety of contexts and in conjunction with various talents or values. Despite being paired with different talents or values, are leadership qualities always the same? In business, leadership is a means of self-fulfillment and earning a living; in politics it is a means of government; in the church it is inextricably tied to morality and in academia, to knowledge; in a family context it invokes values, love, and sustenance; in a social group it consists of friendship and support; in a charitable organization it is tied to social policy, values, and camaraderie. But, does leadership necessarily involve any of these talents or values with which it is paired?

In this course we will pursue a shared inquiry that may shed some light on these questions. Philosophical and historical texts will offer some guidance and perspective on the relationship between leadership, values, and (personal and group) goals. What is the relationship between leaders and society?; or between leaders to followers?; or between leaders and social policy and direction? This course will attempt to historicize different conceptions of leadership both in intellectual movements and cultural developments. What we are looking for is perspective and understanding. Some readings will likely frustrate or anger you while others will resonate with your own ideas and thought processes. Remember, that as students we come to understand and not to judge. The process of learning is inextricable from the quest for knowledge and often frustrated by the seeming grasp of it.

The themes for this course address the contests in western thought between individualism and communitarianism a social/political goal and between idealism and relativism as a means of knowing and searching for truth. The final exam will first ask students to consider how each of the authors read in this class might be characterized in a 2& 2 matrix using these factors. Then each student will be expected to discuss how understandings of leadership are determined by consideration of these factors. Tangential issues will include the appropriate tolerance of dissent by leaders, the use of religion in building communitarian values, and the role of the market in society, how conceptions of truth shape leadership considerations, and what role gender has on leadership.
Course Schedule

Monday, January 14  Introduction

Section I: Classical Foundations

Wednesday, January 16  Lecture: Plato, Periclean Greece, and the Classical Age
Monday, January 21  Discuss Books 1&2 of Plato’s Republic
Wednesday, January 23  Discuss Book 3 of Plato’s Republic
Monday, January 28  Discuss Books 4 & 5 of Plato’s Republic
Wednesday, January 30  Discuss Books 6 & 7 of Plato’s Republic
Monday, February 4  Discuss Books 8, 9, 10 of Plato’s Republic

Section II: Creation of Modern Society

Wednesday, February 6  Lecture on Early Modern Europe and on Colonization
Monday, February 11  Movie: “A Man for all Seasons” (TBA)
Wednesday, February 13  Discuss Book 1 of Thomas More’s Utopia
Monday, February 18  Discuss Book 2 of Thomas More’s Utopia
Wednesday, February 20  Discuss John Winthorp’s “A Model of Christian Charity” and David Hume’s “The Natural History of Religion”
Monday, February 25  Lecture on the Enlightenment and the Newtonian Construct
Wednesday, February 27  Discuss Adam Smith’s Theory of Moral Sentiments (selections)
Monday, March 4  Discuss Books 1 & 2 of Rousseau’s Social Contract
Wednesday, March 6  Discuss Book 4 of Rousseau’s Social Contract
Monday, March 18  Discuss Jefferson’s Notes on Virginia (selections) and “Statute for Religious Freedom”
Section III: Intellectual Reactions to Modern Society

Wednesday, March 20  Lecture on 19th and 20th century thought
Monday, March 25  Discuss Dewey’s *A Common Faith*
Wednesday, March 27  Discuss James’ *Pragmatism*
Sections 2 and 4
Monday, April 1  Discuss James’ *Pragmatism*
Lectures 5, 6, 7, and 8
Wednesday, April 3  Discuss Marx’s *Communist Manifesto*

Section IV: Toward a New Communitarianism

Monday, April 8  Discuss McGarvie essay on Political Correctness
Wednesday, April 10  Discuss Kennedy “Inaugural Address” and King “I Have a Dream”
Monday, April 15  Discuss Clinton, *It Takes a Village*
Wednesday, April 17  Discuss Clinton, *It Takes a Village*
Monday, April 22  Discuss Hicks, *Religion and the Workplace*
Wednesday, April 24  Review; Q & A

Required Texts
Plato, *The Republic*
More, *Utopia*
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*
Dewey, *A Common Faith*
James, *Pragmatism*
Clinton, *It Takes a Village*
Marx, *Communist Manifesto*
Hicks, *Religion and the Workplace*

Grading
Class Participation 50%
Final Exam 50%