LEADERSHIP ON STAGE AND SCREEN
LDST 368-01: FALL 2018
MON/WEDS. 1:30-2:45PM
COURSE BLOG: blog.richmond.edu/LDST368/

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
Popular media such as film, television, and theater has contributed to, criticized, and formed the way its audiences have thought about issues of leadership and followership for centuries. Drama and film have been used to incite rebellions and deliver propaganda to the masses. Such popular forums have been censured, censored, promoted, and adopted by the movements and institutions surrounding them since the advent of early Greek drama, and have been used to perpetuate and challenge dominant ideologies. Drama and cinema engage with their audiences through visual, auditory, and linguistic media, creating a complex milieu of signs and signals which we, as that audience, must read against their historical and contemporary performance contexts. The plays and films examined in this course often interact with, revise, and overlap one another, engaging in a cross-historical and pan-geographic dialogue that often seek to redefine the way in which leadership and followership function.

The purpose of this course is to examine leadership (and, by extension, followership) in the specific settings of theater and modern cinema. We will be studying plays and films from a variety of periods and contexts, comparing them to historical movements and to one another. As a part of this course, we will be looking at the plays and films themselves as indicative of particular socio-political movements, as well as participating in the formation, perpetuation, and criticism of their surroundings. In this way, we will look at the works examined in this course as both evaluations of leadership and as forms of leadership in and of themselves.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Oedipus Rex, Sophocles (any edition, recommended: Harper Perennial)
Hamilton: The Revolution, Lin-Manuel Miranda & Jeremy McCarter (Grand Central)
Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, J.K. Rowling et al (Scholastic)

**There will be an additional 3 Shakespeare plays that will be chosen the first day of class** I will tell you which editions are appropriate for each play following the first day.

(some books may be available at Boatwright Library or online)
Above texts available at the University of Richmond Bookstore. Additional readings will be provided in class, posted on BlackBoard, or attached via email.
All students are also required to view the following films:

1776 (1972), directed by Peter Stone & Sherman Edwards*
Malcolm X (1992), directed by Spike Lee*
Shakespeare Behind Bars (2005), directed by Hank Robertson*
Loving (2016), directed by Jeff Nichols*
Hidden Figures (2016), directed by Theodore Melfi
Black Panther (2018), directed by Ryan Coogler

*Available streaming online through UR libraries.
All films are on Course Reserve at the MRC or may be borrowed from Dr. Bezio directly.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Attendance/Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Short Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Discussion Questions</td>
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<td>Reading/Watching Response Blog</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Jepson Shakespeare Project</td>
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Attendance/Class Participation (10%)
All students are expected to attend classes regularly and to contribute to class discussions. Frequent absences will impact a student’s ability to participate in discussion.

Discussion Questions (5%)
Each student will be expected to start discussion once during the course of the semester. This is not a formal presentation; students are expected to bring five questions or problems to begin the day’s discussion. At least one question must relate to each assigned work for the day.

Reading/Watching Response Blog (10%)
All students are expected to respond to course readings once per week over the course of the semester. In addition, students will be asked to attend three events (movie screenings on campus or in a theatre, theatrical productions, dance or music performances—anything on stage or screen where there is a live audience) and write up brief descriptions/responses to those events.

Short Paper (15%)
The first paper (5-7 pages) is due early in the semester. Students will be given a set of prompts for this assignment, but are encouraged to choose leadership- and drama- or film-related topics that are of interest to them, even if they are not covered in the prompts.

Long Analysis Paper OR Play/Screenplay (30%)
An individual paper dealing with the theme of leadership and theater, film, or other on-screen media (television, videogames, etc.). Students may choose to approach this in a practical manner (discussing a project, like Shakespeare Behind Bars), an analytical manner (analyzing a television series or film), or a creative manner (writing an original play/screenplay). A more specific assignment sheet will be distributed later in the semester.

Jepson Shakespeare Project (30%)
The Final Project contains several components that students will be working on – both in groups and individually – throughout the entire semester. The Project will include the following components:
1. Journal entries on the class Production Blog (blog.richmond.edu/LDST368), submitted weekly (10%). Entries will discuss preparations, rehearsals, and individual thoughts about the project’s progress. Students will also be expected to reply to others’ posts with suggestions or thoughts.

2. A group paper discussing the group’s experience of the project, why the group made the decisions it did, and an analysis of the project (20%). Individual portions will be graded individually. The group should assign sections of the paper to the most appropriate members of the group. Students concerned about their group work should approach me with any concerns or problems with other members of their group. The additional 5% of the grade is based on effort and engagement with the project, and will be determined though peer review.

CLASSROOM POLICIES
Students are expected to be on time to class. Lateness will impact a student’s attendance grade. Students are expected to be attentive to and respectful of the professor and the ideas of their peers.

Laptops are permitted, but use of the internet (via laptop, cell phone, or PDA) during classtime is strictly prohibited. Please make sure all cell phones are silenced or turned off. Students will not be allowed to answer their phones during classtime.

All written work is expected on time. Assignments turned in late will be penalized one full grade for each day they are late. All assignments are expected to be the student’s original work. The Jepson School follows the provisions of the Honor System as outlined by the School of Arts and Sciences.

If emergency circumstances inhibit a student from attending class or completing an assignment, the professor should be notified as soon as possible (preferably before class or the due date of the assignment). Extensions and make-ups are given only at the discretion of the professor. Exams cannot be made up except under the most extenuating of circumstances. Students needing accommodations should speak to the professor.

COMMON JEPSON POLICIES

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.
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.
disability.richmond.edu/
**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.”
[studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/student-handbook/honor/the-honor-code.html](http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/student-handbook/honor/the-honor-code.html)

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

**STUDENT RESOURCES**

If you experience difficulties in this course, do not hesitate to consult with me. There are also other resources that can support you in your efforts to meet course requirements.

**Academic Skills Center** ([http://asc.richmond.edu](http://asc.richmond.edu), 289-8626 or 289-8956): Assists students in assessing their academic strengths and weaknesses; honing their academic skills through teaching effective test preparation, critical reading and thinking, information conceptualization, concentration, and related techniques; working on specific subject areas (e.g., calculus, chemistry, accounting, etc.); and encouraging campus and community involvement. Hours at the Center are:
- Sunday through Wednesday 3:00-9:00 p.m. and Thursday 3:00-7:00 p.m. On-call tutors are also available.

**Career Services** ([http://careerservices.richmond.edu/](http://careerservices.richmond.edu/) or 289-8547): Can assist you in exploring your interests and abilities, choosing a major or course of study, connecting with internships and jobs, and investigating graduate and professional school options. We encourage you to schedule an appointment with a career advisor early in your time at UR.

**Counseling and Psychological Services** ([http://wellness.richmond.edu/offices/caps/](http://wellness.richmond.edu/offices/caps/) or 289-8119): Assists currently enrolled, full-time, degree-seeking students in improving their mental health and well-being, and in handling challenges that may impede their growth and development. Services include short-term counseling and psychotherapy, crisis intervention, psychiatric consultation, and related services.

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

**Boatwright Library Research Librarians** ([http://library.richmond.edu/help/ask/](http://library.richmond.edu/help/ask/) or 289-8876): Research librarians assist students with identifying and locating resources for class assignments, research papers and other course projects. Librarians also provide research support for students and can respond to questions about evaluating and citing sources. Students can email, text or IM or schedule a personal research appointment to meet with a librarian in his/her office on the first floor Research and Collaborative Study area.