Leadership and the Social Sciences
LDST 102, Spring 2022

INSTRUCTOR                      Volha (Olga) Chykina
CLASS TIME                      TUE, THU, 3:00 pm – 4.15 pm
CLASS LOCATION                  Jepson Hall 102
COURSE WEBSITE                 blackboard.richmond.edu
CONTACT INFORMATION               vchykina@richmond.edu (email)
OFFICE HOURS                     TUE, THU, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, or by appointment
OFFICE                          Jepson Hall 131

Course Description
This course introduces you to the study of leadership from a social scientific perspective. Using readings from across the social sciences (psychology, sociology, political science, and others), we will examine topics that are central to leadership. For example, we will discuss what individual and contextual characteristics make people more or less likely to emerge as leaders. We will also consider issues of power, politics, social justice, and cross-cultural differences through the lens of leadership. Throughout the course, we will place a special emphasis on empirical studies of leadership. In the process, we will learn to think as social scientists.

You will need your laptop for certain in-class activities. Please bring your laptop to every class.

Required Texts

All other materials will be provided via Blackboard or Boatwright library’s website.

Course Grades
Your grade will be based on your performance across a range of assignments. You will complete a midterm and a final (2 X 22 = 44 points), a contemporary issues essay (10 points), seven responses to assigned readings (2 X 7 = 14 points), a group presentation and book discussion (12 points), and engage in active class participation, assessed within a week after the midterm and at the end of class (10 + 10 = 20 points). Points for each assignment translate directly and with equal weight into the percentages towards the final grade.
Passing Letter Grades are Assigned as Follows

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100%</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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Assignments and Class Activities

Midterm and Final (2 X 22 = 44 points). You will take two exams during the semester: a midterm and a final. Both exams will be open-note and open-book. Exam prompts will be open-ended and are designed to assess your understanding and ability to integrate class material (as opposed to your memorization abilities). The midterm will focus on the material covered up to the midterm date and the final exam will be comprehensive.

Contemporary Issues Essay (10 points). Many topics and concepts discussed during the course will appear in the news and other media. This essay is an opportunity for you to use class material to understand the broader world. During the semester, you will write an essay (about 4-pages long not counting references, with 1” margins, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font) connecting course concepts to (your choice of) real-life issues and events. Please note that I will grade your essay based on the quality of contribution, not its length. Given this, if you think that you need more or less space, you can write a shorter or a longer essay. As long as the discussed issue or event is current (i.e. occurred during the semester), you can write about it. A rubric for this essay is provided via Blackboard. The due date for the essay is April 13th, at 11:59 pm. I will reduce your grade by 1 point for each day the assignment is late.

Responses to Assigned Readings (2 X 7 = 14 points). For the majority of weeks, students will have one or two readings assigned for each class (videos do not count as readings for this class). To facilitate in-class discussion, each student will write 7 short reading responses to the readings during the course. From January 25th to April 12th, we will cover 7 topic areas (for example, Individual Characteristics of Leaders, Leadership and Politics, etc.). You are expected to write one response for each topic area. You will choose a reading / readings to which you would like to respond in each topic area. Responses should be between 1 and 2 pages long, with 1” margins, double-spaced, in Times New Roman size 12 font. Student responses must address the following points:

- What is the author’s primary argument?
- How does this argument connect to other class material and / or what are potential criticisms of the author’s argument?
- What two questions do you have after reading the assigned text? (Questions can be directly about the material covered in the reading or about how this material connects to other topics and issues discussed in class.)

If your response covers these points in a way that makes it clear that you read and thought about course material, you will get 2 points. If the response partially demonstrates this, you will get 1 point. If the response does not demonstrate this, you will get 0 points. These responses will not be graded for grammar, spelling, or punctuation and can be written in the form of a note. Please bring your printed response with you to class on the day when the reading is due. I will not take late
work for these responses. However, if you have missed one of the responses, you can make it up by writing a response for the April 14th reading. You can only write this additional response if you have not submitted one of the responses during the semester and not instead of the response that you have submitted and lost points on.

**Group Presentation (12 points).** You will prepare a group presentation based on *Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do*. I will assign groups randomly. You will work on the presentation as a group during the April 19th class. You must read the book before the April 19th class. During the April 19th class, I will provide prompts that your presentation should cover. I will join each group during class to facilitate in-group discussion of the book material. You should submit your presentation via Blackboard or email (as a Google Doc link, PDF, or a PowerPoint) by 11:59 pm on April 20th. One person can submit on behalf of the group. On April 21st, you will present your group work and we will also have a general book discussion. 12 points for group presentation will include both the assessment of group presentation and your individual participation in the discussion of the book. As such, if you have not participated sufficiently in the book discussion, your grade for this assignment will be lower than that of your groupmates.

**Class Participation (assessed twice during the semester, 2 X 10 = 20 points).** Each student should come to class having carefully read the assigned materials. Students should be prepared to engage with the instructor and each other in a respectful manner appropriate for a professional setting. You are expected to come to every class, and your participation grade will suffer if you do not. With that said, I will grant excused absences with ease if you reach out before class and explain the nature of your absence. I will grade participation twice, once within a week after the midterm and once at the end of the course. The first grade will assess your participation before the midterm, and the second grade will assess your participation after the midterm.

**Additional Assignment and Grading Policies:**

All assignments except the *Group Presentation* should be submitted as a Word file or a PDF. Dropbox / Google Docs links to assignments other than the *Group Presentation* will not be accepted.

If a student disagrees with their grade for any of the assignments, they must discuss it with me within a week after the grade is returned. The two exceptions to this are the final and the final participation grade, for which students must contact me within 2 days after grades are posted.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>How to submit</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responses to Assigned Readings (7)</td>
<td>In class.</td>
<td>Before the start of class on the day the reading is due.</td>
<td>One response for each topic area covered between January 25th and April 12th. Submit a printed copy before class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>Via Blackboard, during class session.</td>
<td>March 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary Issues Essay</td>
<td>Via Blackboard.</td>
<td>11:59 pm on April 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;.</td>
<td>You pick for what class material you prepare this assignment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group presentation</td>
<td>Presented in class, submit presentation via Blackboard or email.</td>
<td>Presentation should be finalized and submitted by 11:59 pm on April 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;.</td>
<td>You will work on preparing this presentation during the April 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; class session.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Via Blackboard, during exam session.</td>
<td>April 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>In class.</td>
<td>Throughout the semester; assessed within a week after the midterm, and at the end of the course.</td>
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Weekly Schedule

Students should come to class having read (or watched) all assigned materials. With the exception of the required text, all materials are on Blackboard or are publicly available.

### Introduction

**January 11:**
- No required readings.

### What is Leadership?

**January 13:**

### Social Scientific Approaches to Studying Leadership

**January 18:**

**January 20:**

Read the article below, keeping in mind the suggestions for reading a journal article provided by Jordan & Zanna. We will discuss the article vis-à-vis their suggestions in class.


### Individual Characteristics of Leaders

➢ A reading response is due for one of the next four classes.


**January 27:**
February 1:

February 3:

Glass and Bamboo Ceilings in Leadership

➢ A reading response is due for either February 10th or February 15th class.

February 8:
No readings assigned for today but please watch these two TED Talks:
  o https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYyBqs_x044
  o https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVzHBWolGEw

February 10:

February 15:

The Importance of Diversity in Leading Successful Teams

➢ A reading response is due for one of the next two classes.

February 17:

February 22:
**Midterm**

**February 24:** Review for Midterm

**March 1:** Midterm

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**Leadership and Politics**

➢ A reading response is due for one of the next two classes (either March 3rd or March 15th).

**March 3:**

**March 8, 10: Spring Break!**

**March 15:**

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**Power, Persuasion, and Leadership Ethics**

➢ A reading response is due for one of the next three classes.

**March 17:**

**March 22:**

**March 24:**
A reading response is due for one of the next three classes.

March 29:

March 31:

April 5:

Additionally, you should read one of the following chapters from the same book (*Neo-Nationalism and Universities: Populists, Autocrats, and the Future of Higher Education*). We will decide in class which chapter each student will read.

You should access these book chapters directly through Boatwright library’s website.

A reading response is due for one of the next two classes.

April 7:

April 12:
➢ Contemporary Issues Essay is due at 11:59 pm on April 13th.

### Leadership and Corporate Social Responsibility

**April 14:**

➢ Remember that you have to read the entire book by April 19th. If you have not begun reading the book by this point, you should start very soon.

### Round-Up: Leadership, Stereotypes, and What We Can do

**April 19:**

While introducing some new concepts not yet covered in class, this book also offers a great capstone to many topics that we have discussed during this course. Please come to the April 19th class having read the entire book. During this class, you will have dedicated time to discuss the book in groups and start working on your group presentations. I will join each group to answer questions and facilitate the discussion. I will share the elements that students need to include in the presentation at the beginning of the class.

**April 21:** Reserved for final group presentations and book discussion.

### Final Exams

**Final Exam:**
THU, April 28, 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm.

**End Spring Term:** April 30
**Final Grades Due:** May 9, by 9 am.
**Other 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

**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

**Addressing Microaggressions on Campus**
Microaggressions are the everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership\(^1\). Recent research has found that, when professors do not address microaggressions in class, microaggressions foster alienation of marginalized groups\(^2\). Furthermore, both students and faculty who are exposed to microaggressions more often are more likely to have depressive symptoms and negative affect (a negative view of the world)\(^3\). A comfortable and productive environment where meaningful learning happens can be collectively created through actions, words, or environmental cues that promote the inclusion and success of marginalized members, recognizing their embodied identity, validating their realities, resisting sexism, ableism, and racism\(^4\). With this in mind, community member at the University of Richmond should aim to address microaggressions in the classroom by holding themselves, other students, and faculty accountable for what is said and being receptive to criticism when perpetuating these slights, snubs, or insults.

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