

Leaders and Foreign Policy

Politics G53.3700.005

Tuesday 6:20-8:20pm

19 W 4th Room 102

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Course Description

The purpose of the class is to explore new and recent scholarship on leaders in international relations while also putting it in the context of past studies. It is not intended to give a historical overview of studies of leadership, but rather focus on how various paths, or different policies that leaders choose, affect their survival in power. What are their motivations? Do those change in different regime types? We will use quite a lot of historical examples in the course of the semester, and the course will try to combine theoretical perspectives with some policy-oriented readings.

Readings

The following paperbacks should be available from NYU's bookstore. I hope you find these books interesting and useful beyond the purpose of reading them for this class.

Required Texts

- 1.** Bruce Bueno de Mesquita et al. 2003. ***The Logic of Political Survival*** MIT Press
- 2.** Machiavelli. . ***The Prince*** Penguin Group
- 3.** May and Zelikow (eds) 2006. ***Dealing with Dictators*** MIT Press
- 4.** Fred Greenstein. 2004. ***The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to George Bush*** Princeton UP
- 5.** David Gergen. 2001. ***Eyewitness to Power: The Essence of Leadership: Nixon to Clinton*** Simon and Schuster

Keep up with the assigned readings. I hope you find them varied and interesting. In such a course it is almost impossible to assign readings that ALL students will find interesting, but I hope that that the diverse readings and large range of topics will cover at least some of each student's interests. The lectures will build partly on the readings, but not only on them, and I will add lots of information from additional sources. Students should come to classes prepared to discuss the weekly readings.

Evaluation

Your grade will be based on the following:

- 1.** Attendance and participation – 20%
- 2.** Presentation and Short Paper (4-6 pages) – 30%
- 3.** Research Paper – 50%

The class will combine lectures with ample opportunity for discussion of various theoretical approaches, and policy issues. Informed discussion based on the readings and thoughtful consideration of the issues is encouraged; there are no right or wrong answers on these topics (nor do I claim to have such knowledge of the future), but there are informed and uninformed answers. You are encouraged to think about questions, puzzles, and issues that you find interesting while reading the weekly selections and prior to class. AND... you are asked to be respectful of your peers even if you strongly disagree with what they say.

The participation grade is good mainly for “brownie points.” If you end up anywhere near the borderline on grades and your involvement in discussions has convinced me you know more than was reflected in your written work, I will adjust the grade accordingly. Informed discussion cannot hurt your grade. Remember that this is a seminar and you are strongly encouraged to express your views on the weekly topics. This does not substitute however for satisfactory/good written work.

The short paper should offer a critical evaluation of one of the readings or a set of readings. The final research paper (about 20 pages) should be on a topic to be chosen by the student, in consultation with the instructor; the paper will be due at the end of the semester.

Warnings

- 1.** A student CANNOT receive a passing grade for the course if she/he has not submitted all of the assignments.
- 2.** I think I am a reasonable person, and will work with you if you have a learning disability, family emergency, or illness. In general, I expect at least a week advance notification that you will miss an assignment. I will arrange for you to make up the work in a timely manner. If you are physically unable to contact me in advance (e.g., if you wake up extremely ill), you must contact me (via e-mail or phone) as soon as possible and then bring some form of verification from a physician. Failure to complete and assignment without appropriately notifying me will result in zero credit for that assignment.
- 3.** Experience has also shown that participation in class is extraordinarily difficult if you do not attend class. Low attendance correlates (though imperfectly) with low grades on

the assignments. This, of course, excludes emergency cases. In such cases, come see me during office hours, and I will do my best to explain to you what we did in class.

4. Violations of policies on academic misconduct, including but not limited to giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on assignments and plagiarism, will be treated VERY seriously. Assignments involving academic misconduct will receive a zero, and further sanctions will be imposed. Never underestimate your professor's intelligence, creativity, and resourcefulness!!!! Besides, in this specific case, you wouldn't want to piss off a Middle Easterner... we're known to be impatient and we tend to approach disagreements in a violent way...-☺ Jokes aside – do NOT test me...

Course Schedule

This is a detailed, though tentative, schedule. It includes all the readings, but the pace will be determined by how the class proceeds. We'll try to cover all the material on the syllabus, but there might be small changes as the semester goes on.

Class 1 – what's the class about, requirements, the readings, background, framework.

Theme I – Theoretical Approaches

Class 2

Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Class 3

Nannerl O. Keohane, 2005, "On Leadership" *Perspectives on Politics* 3(4): 705-722

Hunter et al, 2007, "The Typical Leadership Study: Assumptions, Implications, and Potential Remedies," *The Leadership Quarterly* 18: 435-446

BdM et al, 2003, Chapter 1

Theme II – Leaders, Institutions, and Foreign Policy

Class 4

Grove, 2007, *Political Leadership in Foreign Policy*, Ch. 1

Bdm et al, 2003, chapters 2 and 3

Class 5 -- Leaders' Survival and Policy Choices

BdM et al, Ch 7

Goemans, 2000, "Fighting for Survival: The Fate of Leaders and the Duration of War," *JCR*, 44(5): 555-79

Chiozza and Goemans, 2003, "Peace through Insecurity: Tenure and International Conflict," *JCR* 47(4): 443-67

Chiozza and Goemans, 2004, "International Conflict and the Tenure of Leaders: Is War still Ex Post Inefficient?" *AJPS* 48(3): 604-19

Class 6 – Leader Change and Interstate Relations

Mcgillivray and Smith, 2004, "The Impact of Leadership Turnover on Relations between States", *IO* 58: 567-600

Class 7 – Effect of Leader Change

Jones, Benjamin and Benjamin Olken, 2005, "Do Leaders Matter? National Leadership and Growth since WWII", *OJE* 835-64

Jones, Benjamin and Benjamin Olken, 2006, "Hit or Miss? The Effects of Assassinations on Institutions and War", Working Paper

Wolford, Scott, 2007, "The Turnover Trap: New Leaders, Reputation, and International Conflict," *AJPS* 51(4): 772-788

Lotrione, Catherine, 2003, "When to Target Leaders," *The Washington Quarterly* 26(3): 73-86

Class 8 – Autocratic Leaders

May and Zelikow

Jessica Weeks, 2008, "Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve", *IO* 62 (1), forthcoming

Theme III – Leadership Styles, History, Presidents, etc...

Class 9 – Do Leaders Change History?

Selections by Spencer, James, Hook, and Greenstein from *Political Leadership: A Source Book* edited by Barbara Kellerman, 1986, University of Pitt Press, pp. 10-49

More readings to be announced...

Class 10 – Women as Leaders

Daniel Goleman, 1998, “What Makes a Leader?,” *Harvard Business Review* pp. 93-102

Judy B. Rosener, 1990, “Ways Women Lead,” *Harvard Business Review*

Sylvia Ann Hewlett, 2002, “Executive Women and the Myth of Having it All,” *Harvard Business Review* pp. 66-73

Deborah Rhode and Barbara Kellerman (eds), 2007, “Women and Leadership: The State of Play,” in *Women and Leadership: The State of Play and Strategies for Change* Wiley and Sons, pp. 1-65

Maybe 1-2 more readings will be added later...

Class 11 – Decision Making

Richard E. Neustadt and Ernest R. May, 1986, *Thinking in Time: the Uses of History for Decision-Makers* chs. 1, 8, 13

Classes 12+13 – US Presidents...

Fred Greenstein’s and David Gergen’s books...

Class 14 – Wrap Up...