

Topics: Leadership in the Jewish and Israeli Context

Middle Eastern Studies 685:352 / Jewish Studies: 563:383

Political Science 790:352

Rutgers University / Spring 2009

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:30-1:30pm and by appointment

Description:

Leadership is easy to identify but difficult to define. It is one of the most familiar human circumstances, whether as followers and less frequently, as leaders, but still, it is one of the vaguest: what is it exactly? Who leads? Who follows? Why, and when? In recent years, due to rapid and dramatic changes in various walks of life and the necessity to make decisions and take risks, understanding leadership has become a primary challenge for governments, business organizations, social movements and any other human grouping. They all aspire for guidance, inspiration and meaning under conditions of insecurity and doubt. Accordingly, leadership is associated with authority, hope and identity; but, in what ways and to what extent? Is leadership an inborn trait or an acquired skill? Does it stem from the leaders' character or from the circumstances around them?

These are some of the questions we grapple with this semester. Our case studies to illuminate the riddle of leadership will be taken from the Jewish world. From Biblical times to Israeli independence, we will try to decipher the leadership code of among others Abraham, Moses, Moses Maimonides, Shabtai Zvi, Moshe Dayan and Yitzhak Rabin.

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation in class meetings are mandatory and welcome. Prior knowledge, although not required, is always helpful and can be obtained from keeping up with the news and current affairs. There is an assignment to be handed in March 29th in which each student selects a leader and writes a two page description on what made the person chosen a leader. A detailed description will be given during the semester.

There are two exams, a midterm and a final, which are non-cumulative and the assignment. Hence, the course grade is determined as follows:

- A Midterm Exam (30%)
- A Final Exam (40%)
- Assignment (20%)
- Attendance and Participation (10%)

Readings:

Required:

Lewis Hal- *From Sanctuary to Boardroom: A Jewish Approach to Leadership*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.

Sherwin Byron- *Workers of Wonders: A Model for Effective Religious Leadership from scripture to Today*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2004.

Additional Readings:

Abadi J. - *Israel's Leadership: From Utopia to Crisis*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1993.

Daft R. - *Leadership: Theory and Practice*, 1999.

DuBrin A. - *Leadership: Research, Findings, Practice and Skills*, 1998.

Elazar D.(ed.)- *Authority, Power and Leadership in the Jewish Polity*. New York: University Press of America, 1991

Etzioni-Halevy E.- *The Divided People: Can Israel's Breakup be Stopped?* Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2002.

Freud S. – *Moses and Monotheism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1939; 1967.

Goleman D, R. Boyatzis, and A. McKee- *Primal Leadership: Learning to Lead with Emotional Intelligence*. Boston, Mass: Harvard Business School Press, 2004.

Machiavelli N. – *The Prince*. Rockville, MD: Manor Publishers, 2007.

Magstadt T.- *Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions, and Issues*. 7th edition, New York: Nelson Education Publishers, 2005.

Pearce W. B. - *Communications and the Human Condition*, 1989.

Saint-Exupery A. – *The Little Prince*. New York: Harcourt Childrens Books, 2000.

Sartre J.P.- *The Childhood of a Leader, from Intimacy and other Stories*. New York: Kessinger Publishing, 2005.

Waltzer M., M. Lorberbaum and N. Zohar (eds.)- *The Jewish Political Tradition: Volume I: Authority*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2000.

Course Schedule:

Leadership:

1. Introduction: what is leadership (W 1/20)
Read: Sartre, Ch. 1, pp. 24-28
Machiavelli, Ch. 16, pp. 89-96
Saint-Exupery, skim
2. Associations and images of leadership (25-27/1)
Read: Pearce, Ch. 1, pp.
Goleman, Ch. 2, pp. 17-81
3. Theories and Models of Leadership (1-3/2)
Read: Daft, chapter 7, pp. 180-232
Goleman, Chs. 3-4, pp. 85-144
4. Leaders: character or circumstances? (8-10/2)
Read: Magstadt, chapter 13, pp. 331-359
DuBrin, chapter 12, pp. 302-331
5. Practicing and visualizing Leadership (15-17/2)

Leadership in Context:

6. Biblical Leadership: Kings, Priests and Prophets (22-24/2)
Read: Walzer, Chs. 3-5, pp. 108-243
Sherwin, Ch. 2, pp. 13-30
Elazar, Ch. 1, pp.31-56

7. Talmudic Leadership: Rabbis and Sages (1-3/3)

Read: Walzer, Ch. 6, pp. 244-306

Sherwin, Ch. 3, pp. 31-44

Elazar, Ch. 9, pp. 235-246

8. Leadership in the Old World (1-3/3)

Read: Sherwin, Chs. 4-5, pp. 45-92

9. Judaism's Classical Approaches to Leadership (8/3)

Read: Lewis, Chs. 1-4, pp. 7-73.

Sherwin, Ch. 6, pp. 93-120

Midterm Exam (Wednesday, 10/3)

Spring Break

10. Leadership in the Jewish World: a *Sui Generis*? (22/3-24/3)

Read: Elazar, Ch. 10-11, pp. 247-304

11. Leadership in Israel: willingness and opportunity (29-31/3)

Read: Abadi, introduction and Conclusion, pp. 169-174

Etzioni-Halevy, Ch. 2, pp. 17-33

12. Leaders in Israel: Ben Gurion and Begin (5-7/4)

Read: Abadi, Chs. 2, 4, pp. 35-58, 81-104

Issues and Challenges in Leadership:

13. Conflict and Disagreement (12-14/4)

Read: Walzer, Ch. 7, pp. 307-378

Ch. 9, pp. 430-453

Lewis, Ch. 5, pp. 75-86

14. Competence and Effectiveness (19-21/4)

Read: Lewis, Chs. 6-7, pp. 87-138

15. Possible New Models (26-28/4)

Read: Lewis, Chs. 8-9, pp. 139-150

Sherwin, Ch. 7, pp. 121-150

16. Review class (3/5)