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%)

Office: Room 109
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Email: mpeleg@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:30-1:30pm and by appointment
Readings:

Required:

Additional Readings:

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
    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)