Leadership in Conflicts  
Instructor: Nimrod Rosler  
Spring 2013, JWSH 600 / GIST 501 / POLS 689, 3 credits  
Time: Tu-Th 2:00-3:15pm  
Classroom: 301 Snow

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Goals and contents of the course

One of the most influential figures in the life of a society generally, and of a society in conflict specifically, is its leader. S/he can mobilize the public and society's resources for the emergence and escalation of a conflict, while s/he can also lead them to its peaceful resolution. The course will include two main parts: In the first part, we will investigate the phenomenon of leadership, examine the sources of leaders' power and their influence, and consider various leadership models. In the second part we will examine the role of leaders in various stages of conflicts. In addition to studying theories in the field, a major part of the course will be looking at case studies of leaders from Israel and from other parts of the world from a comparative perspective. The students will be expected to implement the material of the course in a project that will be carried out along the semester, focusing on a political leader of their choice.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

We meet twice a week to learn, discuss, critically reflect, and digest assigned materials. The course will encourage a free and respectful discussion of various leaders and phenomena related to leadership, and will try to offer students some tools for developing informed and analytical point of view on issues relating to leadership in conflicts around the world. During the course I will occasionally lecture and frequently guide conversation, and you will be expected to present in class an article and the leader you will choose to do your assignments on. I expect that all students come prepared to discuss our readings in an informed and thoughtful manner, after completing the relevant assignments.

Course Outline and Readings

Introduction


1. Development of the field


2. Personal characteristics


3. Leadership as relationship


4. Leadership styles

5. Transformational leadership

6. Social influence: Attitude change

7. Power & leadership

8. Groups & leadership

9. Leadership in a context: General Model

10. Leadership in conflict: Context

11. Leadership in conflict: Social challenges & roles
Bar-Tal (2013). Ch. 5
12. Leadership in conflict: Rhetorical expressions

13. Leadership in the transition to peace: Challenges


14. Leadership in peace process: Context


15. Leadership in peace process: Social challenges & roles

16. Leadership in peace process: Rhetorical expressions

17. Leadership in peace process: Summary