

BOWDOIN COLLEGE
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
GOVERNMENT & LEGAL STUDIES 1002
FALL 2018

PROF. ANDREW RUDALEVIGE

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Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:00; Thursday 9:00-10:00; or by appointment

“Thus it is that armed prophets are victorious, and disarmed ones are crushed.”

- Niccolo Machiavelli, 1513

We talk about political leadership all the time, mostly to complain about its absence. Leadership is surely one of the key elements of politics, but what do we mean by it? What “value added” do leaders provide? With what does Machiavelli’s prophet need to be armed? How do democracy and efficiency, ethics and pragmatism balance?

This course examines these questions and many more. We will look at theoretical assessments, at real world case studies, and at the treatment of leadership in literature. By the end of the course we want to be familiar with a wide variety of perspectives on leadership and the opportunities and dangers it presents – both for those who want to lead, and for those who are called upon to follow.

Readings and Course Materials

All readings in the schedule below are required unless otherwise noted. The following books are all available in paperback via the college’s online textbook center or elsewhere. They are also on reserve in the H-L Library. If you own other editions of Machiavelli, Shakespeare, and/or Sophocles you may use them.

- Nannerl Keohane, *Thinking about Leadership* (Princeton University Press, 2010): ISBN 978-0691156187
 - Ian Kershaw, *Fateful Choices* (Penguin, 2008): ISBN 978-0143113720
 - Nick Kotz, *Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Laws that Changed America* (Mariner, 2006): ISBN 978-0618641833
 - Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, translated by David Wootton (Hackett, 1995): ISBN 978-0872203167
 - William Shakespeare, *Henry V* (Penguin Classics, 2015): ISBN 978-0141396675
 - William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar* (Oxford University Press, 2009): ISBN 978-0199536122.
 - Sophocles, *Antigone*, translated by Paul Woodruff (Hackett, 2001): ISBN 978-0872205710
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Assessment

Grades for this course will be based on the following factors:

(1) Attendance and participation (10% of your grade). This class is a seminar, and requires your active and mature participation and deliberation. Attendance is not a substitute for in-class engagement, but is a necessary condition for it, and thus will be mandatory in this class.

Keep in mind that simply 'talking' is not equivalent to engagement either. Active listening is a key part of deliberative conversation and learning – as is (studies show) taking good, handwritten notes. *For these reasons, I ask that you not use laptops or other electronic devices during class.* (Please speak to me if there are medical reasons for an exception to this rule.)

(2) Reading reaction papers and other short assignments (25%). A variety of low-stakes assignments will be spread throughout the semester, each aiming to help you develop aspects of a college-level (and professional) skill-set. For instance, you might be asked to summarize or react to readings or ideas; to make a brief presentation in class (individually, or as part of a team); to provide discussion questions drawn on the readings; or to carry out a specific form of writing (e.g., to produce a short annotated bibliography linked to your final paper below).

(3) Three papers (15%, 20%, and 30%, respectively). These papers will build in length and complexity, culminating with research into a political leader of your choice. They are due in class, except as noted, on the following dates:

- (a) 4-6 pages, draft due September 21; final paper due October 3
- (b) 5-7 pages, draft due November 2; final paper due November 16
- (c) 9-12 pages, due December 13, noon (outside my office).

In entering Bowdoin you are joining not just a local community but also the global and historical community of scholars. Communities have expectations and standards, and I expect you to learn and abide by ours – because they are actually yours, for life.

*I expect all students to abide by the Bowdoin Academic Honor Code and Social Code. For a copy of the Code, see: <http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml> . **The short version: don't cheat!** Plagiarism is never acceptable and will meet with severe sanction. If you have questions or concerns about academic best practices or how to cite work appropriately, please consult me or a reference librarian. The extensive list of citation resources available at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/academic-honesty/how-to-cite.shtml> is also very useful.*

*In this class we may practice using various citation formats, but unless otherwise specified you should use footnotes, in the "Chicago" (Chicago Manual of Style) "notes" (**not** "bibliography") format. Yes, they are different. For a useful short guide see: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html .*

We will discuss writing extensively in this class, and you will find it useful to have a copy of Rules for Writers or a similar reference on hand. Note that Bowdoin's Writing Project offers conferences with students writing papers in any course on campus. The Writing Project is part of the Center for Learning and Teaching

on the first floor of Kanbar Hall; to get more detailed information or reserve a conference, see <http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-project> .

Students requiring learning or testing accommodations need to be in contact with Lesley Levy in the Student Accessibility Office within the Office of Dean of Student Affairs. You are encouraged to address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. For more detail, please see the material at <https://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/accommodations/index.shtml> .

Schedule of Course Readings

(assigned readings and dates are subject to change, with notice)

(*) - denotes on-line readings available through Blackboard

Introductory Session (August 29)

I. Political Leadership: Concepts and Concerns

What is Leadership? Is Political Leadership Special? (September 3, 5)

Keohane, *Thinking about Leadership*, Introduction and Chapter 1

(*) Aristotle and Plato, brief excerpts from the *Ethics* and *The Republic*, respectively

(*) Thomas Carlyle, excerpt from *On Heroes...* (1840)

(*) Woodrow Wilson, "Leaders of Men" (1890)

(*) Max Weber, excerpts from "Politics as a Vocation" (1918)

Leadership and Followership (September 10, 12)

(*) Garry Wills, Introduction to *Certain Trumpets* (1994)

Keohane, Ch. 2

(*) The Bible: *Exodus*, Ch. 1 – 5 (skim Ch. 7-12), 13:17- 14:30, 15:22-24, 16-20, 32;
Numbers, Ch. 11-14; *Deuteronomy*, Ch. 31, 34; *Joshua*, Ch. 1, 3-4.

Attributes of Leadership (September 17)

Keohane, review Ch. 1; read Ch. 3

(*) Fred Greenstein, *The Presidential Difference*, excerpt

(*) Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, Book II, skim 59-64, read 65

(*) Garry Wills, "The Words that Re-Made America," *The Atlantic* (June 1992)

Note: On the evening of September 20, former White House chief of staff Denis McDonough will be speaking on campus (7 p.m. in Pickard Theater).

Attributes of Leadership: Gender (September 19)

Keohane, Ch. 4

(*) Richard Fox and Jennifer Lawless, "Uncovering the Origins of the Gender Gap in Political Ambition," *American Political Science Review* (August 2014)

(*) Eileen McDonagh, "It Takes a State: A Policy Feedback Model of Women's Political Representation," *Perspectives on Politics* (March 2010)

Attributes of Leadership: Character (September 24, 26)

Keohane, Ch. 6

Review *Exodus*, Ch. 32

Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Cases in Ethics and Leadership (October 1, 3)

(*) Christopher Hitchens, "The Case Against Henry Kissinger," *Harper's* (February 2001)

(*) Robert Kaplan, "In Defense of Henry Kissinger," *The Atlantic* (May 2013)

(*) National Security Archives, documents relating to US-Chile policy, 1970-73

(*) CIA internal memo of November 2002, "Details of... First Interrogation Session..."

(*) Dick Cheney, excerpt from *In My Time*

(*) James Comey, excerpt from *A Higher Loyalty*

Note: *There is no class on October 8 because of fall vacation.*

II. Lessons of Legendary Leadership

Ancient Greece (October 10, 15)

Sophocles, *Antigone* (entire)

Republican Rome (October 17, 22)

(*) Stephen Greenblatt, "Shakespeare and the Uses of Power," *NY Review of Books* (2007)

Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*

Olde England (October 24, 29). Note that an additional evening session may be scheduled for comparative film viewings of Henry V.

(*) Peter Ackroyd, *Foundation*, Ch. 27 & 29

(*) Shakespeare, selected scenes from *Richard II* and *Henry IV*, Parts 1 and 2

Shakespeare, *Henry V*

Note: *On October 31, you will meet in H-L Library for a research session with Barbara Levergood, Government Department library liaison.*

III. Leadership in Time and Context

Decisionmaking: the System, or the Person? (November 5, 7, 12)

Keohane, Ch. 5

(*) Stephen Skowronek, "Presidents and Political Time"

Ian Kershaw, *Fateful Choices*, and in-class presentations on selected chapters

Leadership from Above, and Below: The Case of Civil Rights (November 14, 19, 26, 28)

(*) W.E.B. DuBois, "The Talented Tenth"

(*) M.L. King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

(*) Wills, "Rhetorical Leadership," from *Certain Trumpets*

(*) Larry Berman, "Paths Chosen and Opportunities Lost" (1988)

Nick Kotz, *Judgment Days*

(*) Barack Obama, "A More Perfect Union," March 2008

(*) Barack Obama, "Remarks by the President at the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Marches," March 2015

(*) Ta-Nahisi Coates, "The First White President," *The Atlantic* (October 2017)

Note: no class on November 22 (Happy Thanksgiving!)

IV. Lessons Learned

Advice from, and to, Leaders – and those studying them (December 3, 5)

Keohane, conclusion

(*) David Brooks, "Goodness and Power," *New York Times* (April 28, 2015)

(*) Charles Kesler, "So What if Trump Breaks Norms?" *New York Times* (August 27, 2018)

(*) Wislawa Szymborska, 1996 Nobel Laureate address

FINAL PAPER (in lieu of final exam): Due Thursday, December 13, noon