

BOWDOIN COLLEGE
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
GOVERNMENT & LEGAL STUDIES 1002
FALL 2019

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Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:00; Thursday 11:30-1:00; or by appointment

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em."
Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, II:v

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 skills do leaders need? Can those be learned? What "value added" do leaders provide? How can we achieve both democracy and efficiency – or, for that matter, both ethical and pragmatic results?

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 (where honesty compels me to note they may well be less expensive.) 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 instead.

- Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Leadership in Turbulent Times* (Simon & Schuster, 2018): ISBN 978-0241300725
 - Nannerl Keohane, *Thinking about Leadership* (Princeton University Press, 2010): ISBN 978-0691156187
 - Ian Kershaw, *Fateful Choices* (Penguin, 2008): ISBN 978-0143113720
 - 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. If you know you are going to miss class because of illness or emergency please let me know as soon as feasible.

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.* (I am happy to make medical exceptions; please speak to me if those are needed.)

(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). Plus there is the world-famous library scavenger hunt to look forward to!

(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 on the following dates:

- (a) 4-6 pages, draft due September 27; final paper due October 11
- (b) 5-7 pages, draft due November 1; final paper due November 15
- (c) 9-12 pages, due December 17, noon.

Some additional thoughts:

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, and for life.

*I expect all students to abide by the Bowdoin Academic Honor Code and Social Code. For a copy of the Code, see: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/student-handbook/the-academic-honor-code-and-social-code.html>. **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 librarian. See too the extensive list of citation resources available at <https://library.bowdoin.edu/research/citation-guides.shtml>.*

*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 may find it useful to have a copy of Diana Hacker's *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 Baldwin Center for Learning and Teaching; see <https://www.bowdoin.edu/baldwin-center/writing-and-rhetoric/index.html>.

Students requiring learning or testing accommodations need to be in contact with 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/accessibility/student-accessibility-office/index.html>.

Schedule of Course Readings (assigned readings and dates are subject to change, with notice)

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

Welcome, Introductions, and Course Themes (September 5)

I. Political Leadership: Concepts and Concerns

What is Leadership? Is Political Leadership Special? (September 10, 12)

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 17, 24)

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

Keohane, Ch. 2

***Library Session (September 19) with Bowdoin research librarian Carmen Greenlee.
Meet in H-L.***

(*) 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.

II. "Born to Greatness?": Attributes of Leadership

Attributes of Leadership (September 26; October 1, 3)

Keohane, review Ch. 1; read Ch. 3

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

Goodwin, *Leadership*, Part I (Ch. 1-4)

Machiavelli, *The Prince* (entire)

Character, Growth, Adversity, and Choice (October 8, 10)

Keohane, Ch. 6

Review *Exodus*, Ch. 32

(*) David Brooks, "Do You Have to Be a Jerk to Be Great?" *New York Times* (July 29, 2019)

(*) David Greenberg, "How to Make Sense of the Shocking New MLK Documents,"
Politico Magazine (June 4, 2019)

Goodwin, Part II (Ch. 7-8)

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

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

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

Note: *There is no class on October 15 because of fall vacation.*

Does Gender Matter? (October 17)

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)

The Attributes of Leadership: On Stage (October 22, 24)

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

III. Lessons of Leadership

The Suffrage Movement (October 29)

(*) Elaine Weiss, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win Votes*, excerpt
[please plan to attend Elaine Weiss's lecture on campus this evening: details TBD]

Legend and Leadership: On Stage (October 31, November 5)

Sophocles, *Antigone*

Legendary Leadership: On Stage (November 7, 12)

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

(*) Shakespeare, excerpts from *Richard II* and *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2*
Shakespeare, *Henry V*

Crisis and Transformation (November 14)

Goodwin, Ch. 5-6, 9-10

IV. Thrust Upon 'Em? Leadership in Time and Context

Decisionmaking: the System, or the Person? (November 19, 21, 26)

Keohane, Ch. 5

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

Goodwin, Ch. 11

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

Note: *There is no class on November 28 (Happy Thanksgiving!)*

Leadership from Above, and Below: The Case of Civil Rights (December 3, 5)

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

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

(*) Nick Kotz, *Judgment Days*, excerpts

(*) Clayborne Carson, "Martin Luther King, Jr.: Charismatic Leadership in a Mass Struggle," *Journal of American History* 74 (September 1987)

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

Goodwin, Ch. 12

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

(*) 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)

V. Lessons Learned

Advice From, and to, Leaders – and Those Studying Them (December 10)

Keohane, conclusion

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

(*) Michael Ignatieff, *Fire and Ashes*, excerpt

(*) Wisława Szymborska, Nobel Prize address (1996)

FINAL PAPER (in lieu of final exam): Due Tuesday, December 17, noon