LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN HISTORY

I. FOCUS OF SEMINAR

By using examples from American History this seminar will examine characteristics of leaders and the decision-making process. Attention will be given ethical issues involved in both the process and the product of decision-making.

II. METHODOLOGY

As a seminar, student participation lies at the core of the classroom experience. Each student will be expected to contribute to class discussions daily and to lead the seminar on the day his or her paper is presented.

III. REQUIRED READING

Burns, James MacGregor, *Leadership*

Clark, Walter, *Ox Bow Incident*

Gergen, David, *Eyewitness to Power*

Goodwin,Doris, *Leadership in Turbulent Times*

Keohane, Nan, *Thinking About Leadership*

Machiavelli, Niccolo, *Prince*

Neustadt, R., and May, *Thinking in Time*

Warren, Robert Penn, *All the King’s Men*

Wills, Gary, *Certain Trumpets*

Wood, Gordon S., *Revolutionary Characters*

Additional readings as assigned

Specific reading assignments for each week will be made the preceding week.
IV. PAPER AND CLASS PRESENTATION

Each student will prepare a paper with a minimum of 20 pages of text, to be presented to the class on a designated day, examining the leadership of a historical or contemporary person or examining a problem or policy as it reflects leadership or the failure thereof.

Please note the following:

1. The paper/presentation topic must be approved in advance by the instructor.

2. On the day of the presentation at the beginning of class, student(s) will present an outline of the paper to the instructor and class.

3. The paper is due by 10:00 pm on Thursday, April 29th. It should be revised taking into account class criticism/comments and it should contain a section of at least 1 page at the beginning or the end responding to these criticisms (e.g. Indicate how you revised the paper or why you did not). If you wish to have a copy returned to you with the instructor’s comments, you must turn in two copies of the paper.

4. In addition, the History Departments requires students to forward an electronic copy of their paper to the department: historydus@duke.edu

The requirement for a capstone seminar paper states that the paper must be a single author research paper with a minimum of 20 pages of text.

V. CLASS ATTENDANCE

Since this is a seminar, students are expected to attend all class sessions unless compelling reasons prevent attendance.

VI. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE

Final evaluation of a student’s performance in the class will be based on two factors:

1. Participation in class discussions (50%)
2. Paper and class presentation (50%)

VII. QUESTIONS/PROBLEMS

Dean Wilson will be available to students for discussion of matters pertaining to the course. Please email: gerald.wilson@duke.edu

Session I  Introduction: Course Requirements, Questions to be considered
Session II  The Prince (Machiavelli)
Session III  Leadership (Burns)
Prologue: Part I, Chapter 1 & 2

Part III Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9

Part IV Chapters 10-14

Session IV Revolutionary Characters (Wood)

Session V Revolutionary Characters (Wood)

Session VI Discussion of Paper Topics

Session VII The Ox Bow Incident (Clark)

Session VIII The Ox Bow Incident (Clark)

Session IX Leadership in Turbulent Times (Goodwin)

Session X Dilemmas of Leadership (Course Documents)

The Jefferson Enigma-Kenneth Auchincloss

Flawed Founders-Stephen Ambrose

Did FDR Betray the Jews? - Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

The Abandonment of the Jews- D. Wyman

Pope defends WWII Pontiff’s Role: The Case of Pius XII

Kennedy and 13 Days in October- Richard Reeves

Session XI The Presidency: A Question of Leadership (Course Documents)

The Presidency- Wilson

C-Span Survey of Presidential Leadership

CNN- Top Ten Worst Presidential Blunders

CNN- Seven Presidents Nobody Remembers

“Whatever became of Jimmy Carter?”- Tom Wicker

Session XII Eyewitness to Power (Gergen)

Session XIII Certain Trumpets (Wills)
Session XIV  All the King’s Men  (Warren)
Session XV  All the King’s Men  (Warren)

Session XVI  *Thinking About Leadership*  (Keohane)
Session XVII  Thinking in Time (Neustadt and May)

Class presentations as assigned for the remainder of the semester.