Nikki Haley to Megan Rapinoe. Oprah to Sheryl Sandberg. Women are leading. But where exactly are women leading? What are they leading on? How might women’s leadership compare or contrast with the leadership of men? Does women’s representation in ‘leadership positions’ actually matter? And, is just a cool slogan, or is the future really female?

This course is designed to examine women’s leadership in American life from politics to pop culture. Together we will challenge our own beliefs about leadership, assess women as leaders in a variety of contexts and whether they are valued in traditional leadership roles, in addition to daring to predict what women’s leadership might look like in the decades to come. We will also reflect on our own leadership and how our gender might be a factor in how we lead and who we choose to follow.

This course should be equally rewarding for both men and women, and will be a good fit for students who are: passionate about leadership, eager to learn in a way that translates to real-world application, and appreciate a dynamic classroom that encourages innovative thinking.

Course Structure: Regular class meetings are primarily in seminar format, with an emphasis on learning through real-world examples and discussing our insights and evolving thinking together. You’ll be expected to do light reading (or in some cases watch a video) and prepare answers/questions for class discussions, several written assignments, and do a presentation to the class on a culminating assignment.

Grades: 30% Class Participation
10% Paper on an “Everyday Leader” (Due Feb. 9)
10% Paper on a Woman Athlete & Advocate (Due Feb. 16)
10% Paper on a Conservative Political Woman (Due Feb. 23)
5% Completion of 30 minute 1:1 meeting w/Allison (2nd Half - Semester)
25% Culminating Assignment & Presentation (Due Mar. 25 & Apr. 1/15)
10% Course Reflection Essay (Due by midnight, Apr. 29)
Grade calculation: Grades will be converted from letter to numeric as follows: B+ = 88; B=85; B- = 82 (and so on), with the exception of A+, which will receive a score of 100, and F grades, which will receive a 50.

Course goals:
- A better understanding of leadership holistically
- Development of your personal viewpoint on leadership
- An better understanding of women leaders in American public life, and the role their gender plays in their ability to lead successfully
- Greater perspective on how YOU can lead successfully

Part 1: Part 1 of the course is designed to create a foundation for the rest of the course. To set the tone generally, break apart leadership as a concept, and analyze women’s leadership generally.

Part 2: Part 2 of the course is designed to look at specific women who are leading in American public life through profiles and guided discussion.

Part 3: Part 3 of the course will bring speakers into the class to hear from women leaders directly about their views and experiences, in addition to developing YOUR culminating assignment along the way.

PART 1: LAYING A FOUNDATION

January 21: Introductions and Tone Setting for the Course

Homework before next class: None. Just bring your best self to it!

January 26: Leadership as a Concept

Homework before next class: Prepare for the discussion questions that will be shared at the conclusion of this class.

January 28: Leadership as a Concept

Homework before next class: Read study that’s in the “Homework for Feb 2” folder and and prepare for the discussion questions that will be shared at the conclusion of this class.

February 2: Women as Leaders

Homework before next class: Prepare for discussion questions that will be shared at the conclusion of this class.
February 4: Women as Leaders

*Homework before next class*: Write a 1-1½ page paper, single spaced on an everyday leader in YOUR life (man or woman). Paper should cover who that person is, why you consider them a “leader,” and share at least one example *showing* me. Submit it by the time class starts, and be prepared to discuss in our next class.

February 9: Everyday Leaders

*Homework before next class*: Read the profile that’s in the “Homework for Feb 11” folder and prepare for the discussion questions that will be shared at the conclusion of this class.

**PART 2: PROFILES**

February 11: Melody Hobson

*Homework before next class*: The class will be assigned one of four women athletes who’ve also participated in public advocacy: Megan Rapinoe, Billie Jean King, Maya Moore, or Serena Williams. A prompt will be shared at the end of class, and 1-1½ page paper, single spaced should be written in response and submitted by the time our next class starts. Your perspectives will also be the foundation of our next class discussion.

February 16: Megan Rapinoe, Billie Jean King, Maya Moore, & Serena Williams

*Homework before next class*: Read the profile that’s in the “Homework for Feb 18” folder and prepare for the discussion questions that will be shared at the conclusion of this class.

February 18: Megan McCain

*Homework before next class*: The class will be assigned one of three conservative women political figures: Nikki Haley, Susan Collins, or Condoleezza Rice. A prompt will be shared at the end of class, and 1-1½ page paper, single spaced should be written in response and submitted by the time our next class starts. Your perspectives will also be the foundation of our next class discussion.

February 23: Nikki Haley, Susan Collins, & Condoleezza Rice

*Homework before next class*: Watch the video that’s in the “Homework for Feb 25” folder and prepare for the discussion questions that will be shared at the conclusion of this class.

February 25: Oprah

*Homework before next class*: Read the profile that’s in the “Homework for March 2” folder and prepare for the discussion questions that will be shared at the conclusion of this class.
March 2: AOC

*Homework before next class:* Be prepared to come to class to talk about how you’re surviving pandemic-life, how you feel this class is going so far, and perhaps any burning questions you have for your professor who does her best to be a lady leader herself.

March 4: Pandemic Pause/Class Check in

*Homework before next class:* Read the background on our guest in “Homework for March 11” folder and come to class prepared with a discussion question.

March 9: No Class per Duke University Academic Calendar

PART 3: SPEAKERS AND FINE-TUNING INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP VIEWS

March 11: Guest Speaker TBD

*Homework before next class:* Read the background on our guest in “Homework for March 16” folder and come to class prepared with a discussion question. Also, schedule your 30 minute 1:1 to take place before the end of the semester via the Calendly link in Sekai.

March 16: Guest Speaker TBD

*Homework before next class:* Read the background on our guest in “Homework for March 18” folder and come to class prepared with a discussion question.

March 18: Guest Speaker TBD

*Homework before next class:* Read the background on our guest in “Homework for March 23” folder and come to class prepared with a discussion question.

March 23: Guest Speaker TBD

*Homework before next class:* Complete Part 1 of the Cumulative Assignment (5% of total grade) and submit before next class: A *no more than* 1 page, single spaced explanation of what you believe is the #1 quality a leader should possess and why. Additionally, read the background on our guest in “Homework for March 25” folder and come to class prepared with a discussion question.
March 25: Guest Speaker TBD

*Homework before next class:* Read the background on our guest in “Homework for March 30” folder and come to class prepared with a discussion question.

March 30: Guest Speaker TBD

*Homework before next class:* Complete Part 2 of the Cumulative Assignment (5% of total grade) and submit before next class: A *no more than* 1 ½ page, single spaced description of a woman leader in American public life who you believe embodies what your #1 quality in a leader is, illustrated with at least one concrete example of them demonstrating it. Read the background on our guest in “Homework for April 1” folder and come to class prepared with a discussion question.

April 1: Guest Speaker TBD

*Homework before next class:* Read the background on our guest in “Homework for April 6” folder and come to class prepared with a discussion question.

April 6: Guest Speaker TBD

*Homework before next class:* Read the background on our guest in “Homework for April 8” folder and come to class prepared with a discussion question.

April 8: Guest Speaker TBD

*Homework before next class:* Work on your presentation that is Part 3 of the Cumulative Assignment, which will be grounded in parts 1 & 2 with additional guidance provided in Sakai.

April 13: No Class - Time to Work on Presentations

*Homework before next class:* Work on/finish your presentation and submit it before the next class! Everyone's presentation is due by April 15 and we'll randomly select who presents as we go!

April 15: Student Presentations

*Homework before next class:* None. Bring your best self!

April 20: Student Presentations

*Homework before next class:* None. Bring your best self!
April 22: Student Presentations

*Homework before next class:* Write a *no more than* 2 page, single spaced course reflection paper. This is meant to be a self-guided assignment, but I’m happy to chat out what you’re considering reflecting on, if helpful!

**Other Notes/Policies:**

**Reading assignments:** Reading will be light and primarily news articles. All assigned readings will be posted in Sikai prior to the class they are planned to be homework following (i.e.: readings for Feb 2 will be in Sikai before we walk into the Jan 28 class).

**Written assignments:** All written assignments will be reviewed in the class before they are homework and success defined. The instructor will also be available via cell/email for clarification, and all assignments must be submitted by the time class starts on the date they are due unless other guidance is given.

Written assignments are also intentionally short. Clear, concise communication is a key component of leadership - so let’s practice it!

**Class participation:** This class will be heavy on classroom discussion, and therefore attendance and participation a key part of your grade. If you miss a class, please take the initiative to get a readout on what was missed, including homework guidance. If you have an off day in class, or have to be absent for some reason, you can still get credit for “participation” by submitting your thoughts on the discussion prompts in writing to the instructor. **Be advised that if this final provision is abused, it will be lost.**

**Google Drive e-filing of homework:** Please create and share (allison.jaslow@gmail.com) a Google Drive folder labeled: “Last Name of Student”/Women As Leaders” - you’ll begin to populate this folder with your homework assignments for the purpose of getting YOU feedback and your grades more efficiently.

**Laptops & phones:** Please bring your laptop to every class, as you may need to reference electronic documents you’ve created and/or open source information at points in the class. However, please keep all laptops, tablets, and phones out of sight unless instructed to use them.

**Duke Community Standard:** The Duke Community Standard applies to this course and any student who violates it will receive an F.

**Recordings:** Students are not permitted to record audio or video from class meetings; any student who violates this standard will receive an F.
Late work: Late work will be penalized by 20% of the assignment’s total value per late day unless specific permission was given by the instructor to turn it in late.

Respect: It’s expected that all students will act respectfully toward each other, any class guests and the instructor. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

Syllabus changes: The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus with the intent of achieving the best learning experience possible. Any need for changes will be discussed with the class prior to making them.

-Nothing Follows-