BUS 609 Leadership in Political, Social, and Economic Contexts

Semester: Spring, 2013
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Course Description:

This course will examine the changing role of leadership and leadership approaches in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Emphasis will be placed on the impact leaders have had on the political, social and economic issues affecting the United States and, to a more limited degree, the world. In order to develop an understanding of the impact leadership has had on lives today, students will explore the social, political, economic and intellectual issues of the past and connect them to the issues and challenges faced by leaders today.

Texts: Biography of Effective Leader (TBA)
       Wall Street Journal (subscription only)

Student subscription: https://buy.wsj.com/shopandbuy/order/subscribe.jsp?trackCode=aap6y444

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Identify and define the characteristics, behaviors, and traits most commonly ascribed to successful leaders in the US and
the world as they met the challenges of the 20\textsuperscript{th} and 21\textsuperscript{st} centuries.

2. Understand the impact leaders have had on the social, political, and economic issues of their time.

3. Understand the social, political, economic and intellectual issues facing leaders and how those challenges were successfully or unsuccessfully navigated.

4. Develop and evaluate requirements for leadership training programs to prepare the next generation of leaders for the challenges of the future.

Session 1:

1. Discuss course policies, procedures and requirements.
2. Negotiate class schedule for the semester
3. Review of leadership terms and understandings from 622.
3. Wall Street Journal Review
4. Discuss biographical reading assignments
5. Reading assignments and information gathering for class presentations.

Session 2:

1. Leadership in a social context—what events have altered the manner in which we behave and/or act?
2. Assignments for the next class.
3.

Session 3

1. Leadership in an economic context—what events have altered the manner in which we conduct our lives in a business sense?
2. Assignments for next class
Session 4
1. Leadership in an educational context---what events have altered the manner in which we view education?
2. Assignments for next class

Session 5
1. Leadership in a political context—what events have altered the manner in which we view politics?
2. Assignments

Session 6:
1. Leadership in the context of power and greed.
2. Assignments for class

Session 7:
1. Leadership in the context of internal and external conflict and disagreement.
2. Assignments

Session 8:
1. Leadership in the context of religious and civil strife.
2. Assignments
Session 9:

1. Student presentations

Session 10:

1. Final Exam

Course Requirements:

1. Attend all class sessions and participate in and complete all class activities.

2. Participate in class discussions. Graduate students should seek a high level of involvement in their learning.

3. Complete all required reading.

4. Complete a 6-8-page research paper centering on a major issue/circumstance facing the United States that has the potential for far-reaching impact on society. The paper should include:
   
a. A comprehensive definition of the issue in terms of historical and contemporary perspective and reflects on the origin of the issue (where and when did it begin) and whether this issue was natural (inevitable) or avoidable and reasons for that.

b. A discussion of the various perceptions commonly held by those most likely to be impacted by the issue.

c. A reflection on the types of leaders and leadership styles that are necessary to meet the challenges of the
issue and a determination of an individual(s), past or present, with the ability to lead the issue to resolution.

d. A clearly stated premise for the research
e. Three points that support the premise
f. Conclusions that are drawn from the supporting data/references/student synthesis
g. A minimum of five (5) references cited APA style.

5. The compilation of a weekly leadership log from course readings and discussions in which leaders and/or leadership issues are categorized according to the contexts of their leadership and effectiveness (i.e., social, political, economic and intellectual).

6. The completion of an in-depth study and report of one historical and one contemporary leader, that focuses on their leadership accomplishments and influences. Ideally, the student will select one positive and one negative leader as their subjects.