Catalog description: "Exploration of concepts and theories of political leadership, partly through biography, as preparation for public service or advanced scholarly inquiry. Pre: any 100 level POLS course or consent."

My detailed description for this semester: This course offers a sample--only a sample--of the vast literature about political leadership. My introductory lecture to this course will go into the various considerations for the current selection. In brief, (1) there should be a problem focus that is contemporary; (2) perspectives on particular leaders should include both how they see themselves and how others see them and the situations they coped with; and (3) there should be an introduction to the “how to” literature that address the current and projected future students can expect to live in and offers advice on how to cope.

Assigned books:

- An insider’s view of leadership: Gergen, *Eyewitness to Power*. This book consists of Gergen’s reflections, based on his experience as a White House employee, on Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton--how they rose to the presidency, how they coped with various issues, and why they succeeded or failed. In common with Johnson and Kwak, you'll note Gergen's focus on power struggle, power concentration and loss.
- A presidential autobiographical perspective: Bush, *Decision Points*. This book, based on George W. Bush's own records of what went on in the White House, reflects on how he viewed policy problems, his values, and decision processes on major issues during his two terms (e.g., stem cell research, Iraq, Afghanistan, Katrina, and others). Of special is the role religion played in Bush's life and his “freedom agenda.”
- One of the latest in a long history of “self help” literature on how to be a leader: Heifetz, Grashow and Linsky, *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership*. This book addresses the problem of adapting oneself and one's relations to others to better discern and cope with issues of significance to society--learning adaptive leadership. The authors are professional consultants to leaders and leadership groups. Their focus? “Exercising adaptive leadership is at its heart about giving meaning to your life beyond your own ambition” (p. 224).

All four are in the bookstore.

I will circulate a list of books to you on leadership via Laulima, many of which I have in my office. However, Amazon.com provides editors' and users' reviews, and often has excerpts and tables of contents which are helpful to get an overall impression of each book. You may use any of them for supplementary reading assignments.
Assignments:

Note: there will be a quiz every Friday on the readings and lecture material. As we finish each book there will be an exam on the book and related lecture material as a whole.


Week 1 8/26/13 - J: Introduction and chapters 1, 2.
B: Ch. 1 “Quitting”
H: Introduction, Chapter 1 “How to Use This Book”
Lectures: socio-biological roots of politics.
Exercise: what are leaders' basic characteristics?

Week 2 8/4 - J: Chs. 3, 4
G: Preface and Ch. 1 “The Stuff of Shakespeare”
H: Ch. 2

Week 3 9/9 - J: Chs. 5, 6
H: Ch 5

Week 4 9/16 - J: Chs. 7, Epilogue - Friday exam covers entire book and lecture material
H: Ch. 6

Week 5 9/23 - G: Chs. 2, 3
H: Ch. 7

Week 6 9/30 - G: Chs. 4, 5
H: Ch. 8

Week 7 10/7 - G: Chs. 6, 7
H: Ch. 9

Week 8 10/14 - G: Chs. 8, 9

Week 9 10/21 - G: Ch. 10 and Conclusion - Friday exam on entire book and lectures
H: Ch 10

Week 10 10/27 - B: Chs. 2, 3, 4
H: Ch. 11

Week 11 11/4 - B: Chs. 5, 6, 7
H: Ch 12

Week 12 11/11 - B: 8, 9, 10
Week 13 11/18 - B: 11, 12, 13, 14, Epilogue. Friday exam on weeks 10-13 inclusive
Week 14 11/25 - H: Part Four (all, pp. 177-230) Quiz on Wednesday (Friday is a holiday)
Week 15 12/2 - H: Part V (all, pp. 231-297)
Week 16 12/9 - Course review Wednesday exam on weeks 14-16 inclusive

Term Paper:
The exams and quizzes will count for about 60% of your grade. The remainder will be divided between a term paper, 30% of your grade, and an essay final exam, 10%. The term paper should be about 10-15 pages, in which you pull together what you’ve learned in the course, addressing one of the following questions: (1) in what sense did Bush exercise or not exercise “adaptive leadership” as described and recommended by Heifetz et al? (2) same question but about the banking institution (or cabal, or class, as you prefer), (3) have modern societies like America's, Europe's, Asia's “young tigers,” Australia and New Zealand, and others technologically advanced (broadly speaking) owe their standards of living to adaptive leadership habits, and if so, are they rooted in or at least encouraged by capitalism and/or democratic practices? The essay exam question will be posted at the end of the semester.