

Pols. 651 Political Leadership Fall 2014 (CRN 78157), Webster 103, T 5:30-8:00
(classroom may change from BusAD C-103, but unless you hear otherwise we'll meet there for our first meeting).

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Office hours in Saunders 616: MW 2-4, T 3-5:00 and by appointment.

Catalog description: "Exploration of political leadership as a focus for research, teaching, and applied political science."

My detailed description for this semester: This course offers a sample--only a sample--of the vast literature about political leadership. My introductory lecture(s) 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 addresses the current and projected future students can expect to live in and offers advice on how to cope.

Some of you may have an interest in contemporary Hawaii politics, especially given the major changes in leadership that have occurred during the recent primary election. Others may be more interested in the prospects for more violent conflict in the Mideast and leadership under those conditions. Still others may be interested in the global banking scandals and financial warfare for power and wealth. Still others may be interested in challenges to leadership in crisis such as the Icelandic constitutional reform movement which continues to this day, following the national bankruptcy. These and other topics may well become the focus of several of our meetings, depending on your interests.

Throughout these substantive discussions I will regularly draw attention to relevant political theory and philosophy and empirical research, drawing on a broad spectrum of social science literature.

Assigned books:

This book is not in the UHM bookstore. It's a trade book and can be obtained at many commercial bookstores or via Amazon. I may have copies to lend.

- Contemporary problem: Johnson and Kwak, *13 Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown*. This book and its sequel (not assigned), *White House Burning*, examines the current financial stress in the USA and the world in the context of the political history of banking in the USA, not from a classical economics perspective but from a power struggle perspective and the problem of power concentration.

Available at the UHM Bookstore:

- 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).
 - Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*. One of the major books on how to organize resistance-to-power movements in the USA. This is a paradigm shift away from the above literature, and has a reputation for being used by many, including President Obama.

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 and can borrow from my library. Additional suggestions would be welcome.

First assignment. For the *first* two weeks we'll go through Gergen's *Eyewitness to Power*. Read the first three chapters for our first meeting if you can. They may provoke you to some serious critical inquiry. Also, I am interested in you writing me via email about your current interests and relevant background. The more I know about you the more relevant I can be to you.

As we progress, I will update this document to include new assignments and lecture notes, and email it to you.

Here are my last year's assignments in three of the five books assigned for this semester, just to give you an idea of what is expected in general. I'll revise it after our first meeting to take your interests into account.

Author abbreviations: J&K - Johnson and Kwak, G - Gergen, B - Bush, H - Heifetz et al.

Week 1 8/27/13 - 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 9-3 - J: Chs. 3, 4

G: Preface and Ch. 1 "The Stuff of Shakespeare"

H: Ch. 2

Week 3 9/10 - J: Chs. 5, 6

H: Ch 5

Week 4 9/17 - J: Chs. 7, Epilogue

H: Ch. 6

Week 5 9/24 - G: Chs. 2, 3

H: Ch. 7

Week 6 10/1 - G: Chs. 4, 5

H: Ch. 8

Week 7 10/8 - G: Chs. 6, 7

H: Ch. 9

- <http://birdsoftheair.blogspot.com/2007/09/imprimis-on-global-warming.html>
 - [Global Warming: Man-Made or Natural? - Applegate Insulation](#)
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Week 8 10/15 - G: Chs. 8, 9

Week 9 10/22 - G: Ch. 10 and Conclusion

H: Ch 10

Week 10 10/28 - B: Chs. 2, 3, 4

H: Ch. 11

Week 11 11/5 - B: Chs. 5, 6, 7

H: Ch 12

Week 12 11/13 - B: 8, 9, 10

Week 13 11/19 - B: 11, 12, 13, 14, Epilogue.

Week 14 11/26 - H: Part Four (all, pp. 177-230)

Week 15 12/3 - H: Part V (all, pp. 231-297); student discussion of their term paper

Week 16 12/10 - student discussion of term paper topics; course review

Term Paper assignment from last year, again just to give you a general idea of what to expect; I'll modify it to fit your interests after our discussion. The general requirement for weekly writing and a term paper will remain.

Your grade will be based on (1) weekly commentaries on the readings (70%) and a final term paper (30%) for the course. The term paper should be roughly 20 pages, in which you pull together what you've learned in the course, addressing one or more 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 individuals and

corporations in the banking institution (or cabal, or class, as you prefer) and related political institutions (Congress, White House and executive agencies, Supreme Court, the press), (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? You may suggest alternative foci.