George Mason University Course Approval Form
Office of the Registrar

New__X_____ Modify_______ Delete_______

Department: Public and International Affairs              Course Abbrev/Number__GOVT 852

Prepared by: Julianne Mahler, Dept. Public & International Affairs Ext: 3-1414

Full Course Title: Seminar in Leadership

Abbreviated Course Title (Inventory will only accommodate 24 characters):
Seminar in Leadership

Term First (new courses): F 2006       Course Level: GA
UL=Undergrad lower
UU=Undergrad upper
GF=Grad lower (500-600)
GA= Grad upper (700 + )

Credit Hours: (Fixed)__3__ (Var.)______ Catalog Format: (3:3:0)

Previous Course ID:_________________ Last Term Course will be Offered:______________

Repeatable for Credit: N
D=Yes, but not within same term (indicate max hrs) Up to:
T=Yes, within same term (indicate max hrs) (Maximum hours)
N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code 1: Sem
LEC=Lecture
RCT=Recitation
STU=Studio

Activity Code 2: LAB=Lab Maximum Enrollment:
SEM=Seminar
INT=Internship
IND=Independent Study

Prereq: GOVT 510

Approval:
Department or Program:____________________________ Date:_______________
(Signature)

College Council:____________________________ Date:_______________
(Signature- if applicable)

Graduate Council:*____________________________ Date:_______________
(Signature - Provost or Graduate Council Representative)

*All courses numbered 500 or above must be forwarded to Graduate Council once approved at the departmental or college level. OtR 11/99
GOVT 852
Leadership

Department of Public and International Affairs
Fall 2006

Course Objectives: This research seminar will explore some of the classical and contemporary literature on leadership in government and political institutions. We will investigate biographical and autobiographical classics on leadership and recent investigations of the political, moral and psychological bases of leading. Leadership literature from comparative politics, public administration and American government will be considered. What accounts for the success of leaders? What motives drive them? What blocks their effectiveness?

Students will have the opportunity to investigate important issues in explaining the emergence of leaders in American and comparative perspective leading to a major research paper exploring the theoretical problem in the leadership literature or an investigation of leadership in a government or political setting based on primary or secondary research. Students should select a topic early in the semester in consultation with the instructor.

Course Requirements: This course is a graduate seminar. By rotation, students will be responsible for directing the class by serving as discussion leaders for the reading assignments. Discussion leaders will turn in short commentaries (3-5 pages) describing the themes and controversies in the readings on the day(s) they are responsible for leading the class.

The bulk of the grade for the course is a 20-25 page research paper on an problem in leadership research and theory. Original field research in the form of direct interviews or secondary research on biographical or autobiographical sources, memoirs or journalistic reportage is encouraged.

The weights that will be attached to the major course assignments are as follows:
Participation: 10%
Commentaries on readings by discussion leaders (altogether): 30%,
Research Paper: 60%

Books
F. Greenstein The Presidential Difference (Princeton, 2001)
James MacGregor Burns, Leadership (Harper, 1978)
Norma Riccucci, Unsung Heroes (Georgetown, 1995)
Mark Neely, The Last Best Hope on Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America (Harvard, 1993)
Rudolph Gulliani, Leadership
Aung San Suu Kyi, Freedom from Fear, Revised Ed. (Penguin, 1995)

Course Readings and Schedule

Week 1
Introduction: The Problem of Leadership

Week 2
Classical Views of Leadership
Wm. Shakespeare, Henry IV Pt 1 and 2
Benjamin Franklin, The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

See also:
Joseph Ellis, Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation,
David McCullough, John Adams

Week 3
The Psychological Bases of Leadership

Psychoanalytic Perspectives
J.D. Barber, The Presidential Character

Week 4-5
Moral Imperative in Leadership
James McGregor Burns, Leadership

Weeks 6-7
Leaders in Politics and Government—The American Context

Mark Neely, The Last Best Hope on Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America

Fred Greenstein, The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Clinton

See also:
Bruce Miroff, Icons of Democracy: American Leaders as Heroes, Aristocrats, Dissenters and Democrats (Basic Books, 1993)
Peggy Noonan, When Character was King: A story of Ronald Reagan (Viking, 2001)
Garry Wills Certain Trumpets: The Nature of Leadership (Simon and Schuster, 1995)

Week 8-9
Leaders of Public Enterprise
Norma Riccucci, Unsung Heroes: Federal Executives Making a Difference
Rudolph Guliani, Leadership (Mirimax, 2002)

See also:
Robert Caro, Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York

**Weeks 10-11**
**Leadership in Comparative Context**

Andreq Mango, Ataturk (Overlook Press, 2002)
Aung San Suu Kyi, Freedom from Fear, Revised Ed. (Penguin, 1995)

**Weeks 12-13**
Student Presentations

**Week 14**
Lessons for Leadership