Lawyers and Leadership – Syllabus
Spring 2017, Tues. & Thurs., 2:15-3:45pm
Professor Deborah L. Rhode

Professor: Deborah L. Rhode
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Required Text:


Evaluation will be based on class participation, a class presentation, and either (1) short weekly reflection papers (about 3 pages) and a short research paper (3-5 pages) or (2), a long paper. Students writing reflection papers will post a paper of at least three pages every week, except for one week (chosen at the student’s discretion). Each student will be on a reflection team and will comment on the paper of one other student on that team. Criteria for evaluating reflection essays are as follows: Does the essay reflect a fair assessment of a reasonable sample of the assigned materials? Does the essay offer an insightful well-written response? Does the analysis effectively draw on other research, personal experience, or illuminating anecdotes, quotations, and related materials? A file with a printout of the reflection papers (including comments) and the short research paper is due by 5pm, on Friday, May 26, in Eun Sze’s office (Room N182). The long paper is due by 5pm on Friday, May 26th for graduating students and 5pm on Friday, June 30th for non-graduating students.

4/6  Qualities, Challenges, and Styles of Leadership. Chapter 1, pp. 8-28, prepare Problem 1-1 and Chapter 2, pp. 1-22

4/11 Leaders as Decision Makers. Chapter 3, pp. 1-35

4/13 Influence: Persuasion, Followers, Innovation, and Conflict Management. Chapter 4, pp. 1-45, prepare Problem 4-5 (2) and (3)

4/18 Communication. Chapter 4, pp. 45-62, prepare Problem 4-6 (1) (three minute speech)

4/20 Communication, continued

4/24 Lunch Class (Room 320D at 12:45 PM): Leadership and Social Change Christa Gannon. Chapter 10, pp. 1-10 and supplemental reading

4/25 Moral Leadership. Chapter 5, pp. 6-39

4/27 No class

5/2 No class

5/4 Authority and Accountability. Chapter 6, pp. 1-47
Lunch makeup class (12:45 PM, Room 280A) Russ Feingold on Political Leadership


Lawyers as Leaders: A Conversation between Ben Heineman and Bruce Sewell (12:45 PM – 2:00 PM, Room 290)

5/16 Social Entrepreneurship, Kathleen Janus. Supplement

5/15 – Leadership Film (self-schedule)
5/18 Leadership in Literature and Film. Chapter 11 pages and Novel TBA

5/23 Diversity in Leadership. Chapter 8, pp. 12-52