

Essential Questions: What are the characteristics of authentic leadership? What does society expect from its leaders? How does society exercise its responsibility to select and support its leaders? What role do ethics play in leadership? How do we judge whether our leader's goals and actions are moral? What is transformational leadership? Can one person really make a difference? Are great leaders born or a product of their times?

Proposed Texts:

Beschloss, Michael. Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America 1789-1989 (Excerpts)

Burns, J.M. Leadership (Excerpts)

Kaplan, Robert. Warrior Politics: Why Leadership Demands a Pagan Ethos (Excerpts)

Machiavelli, Nicollo. The Prince (Excerpts)
Selected Biographical Works

Proposed Film/Documentary:

Attenborough, Richard. "Gandhi"
Selected Documentaries

Overview: The English educator, Kurt Hahn, defined character as the capacity, "to follow what one believes to be the right course in the face of discomforts, hardships, dangers, mockery, boredom, skepticism, and the impulses of the moment." Given the tendency of society to mythologize its leaders, many people see leadership as something "other worldly" rather than a natural outgrowth of the lives of men and women who saw what needed to be done and who possessed the requisite courage and commitment to transcend their personal limitations and act decisively in the face of life's uncertainties.

In this course students will be introduced to a variety of historical and contemporary figures whose contributions earned them special recognition as political leaders, entrepreneurs, or humanitarians. The class will debate, critique, and analyze the characteristics that made each of these individuals effective, even transformational leaders in the view of the people and society they served. An essential goal of this process will be for students to develop a personal vision/model of effective public leadership. Readings will incorporate case studies of various emblematic leaders. In addition the course will include readings that provide insights into the nature of leadership from disciplines such as anthropology, history, psychology, literature, philosophy, and management theory in order to gain a greater understanding of the interaction between leaders and their respective societies.

Methods: This course is grounded in the life stories (successes and failures) of real human beings. Exploring the life journeys of others gives each of us the opportunity to re-examine our own lives with fresh eyes. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to our own growth and development is the all too human tendency to ascribe our successes and failures to others or to forces beyond our control. The life stories we will be examining speak to the capacity of individuals to go beyond what conventional wisdom believes is possible in order to realize a vision that speaks to life's greater possibilities. This course is predicated on the assertion that all of us can make a difference with our lives. It is organized around essential questions designed to guide the learning process, keep it interesting, and lead to further questions and deeper understandings.

As a result of their immersion in these life stories, students will gain a deeper understanding of the nature of effective leadership and advocacy and a more profound appreciation for the well-spring of personal

vision and moral courage that is demanded of those who would lead others. Finally, students will be encouraged to explore and reflect upon their own emerging leadership capabilities as Cushing students through the use of personal journals and selective participation in a number of volunteer/advocacy activities including: Model UN, Model Congress, Mock Trial, Community Service, and Junior/Senior Internships sponsored by Cushing's Institute for 21st Century Leadership.

Throughout the course, students will be learning to:

- Confront and examine leadership models that reflect and/or transcend various paradigms in society today.
- Utilize different theories of leadership to examine/evaluate the actions and contributions of exemplary leaders.
- Develop the capacity to analyze the interplay of historical, societal, and biographical factors in shaping the evolution and conduct of leadership.
- Utilize research, journalistic, internet, and historical materials in a discriminating manner.
- Develop the ability to weigh evidence and reach conclusions on the basis of facts and reasoned argument.
- Listen carefully and communicate effectively through debate and discussion.
- See the challenges of 21st Century Leadership through a global perspective.
- Develop their capacity to create thoughtful, compassionate, and well-reasoned essays.

Potential Case Studies: Martin Luther, John and Abigail Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt, Socrates, Frederick Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mohandas Gandhi, Albert Einstein, Alice Paul and Mary Chapman Catt, Mao Zedong, Mother Teresa, Henry Ford, Bill Gates, Ernest Shackleton.