



臺灣大學進修推廣學院
NTU SPECS

NTU School of Professional Education and Continuing Studies

Leadership through Fiction and Storytelling

讀小說 · 說故事 · 當領導



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- Is leadership one's gift born to possess, or is it only learned through experience? Are there pre-set business models to cultivate leadership? Leadership deals with people, with the complexities of human beings, their cultures, their values, and their beliefs. If we learn from the span of history, from the start of the human civilization, we can see the rise and fall of an empire, the rise and fall of an emperor or a king, and while looking into the historical or fictional stories, we gain valuable insights into the heart of leadership that does not come from the business aisle or the political model. Rather, it can be inspired by the literary classics that stand the test of time and that we read again and again in different generations.

This class attempts to introduce an alternative way of examining leadership from a western literary perspective by reading and analyzing famous literary texts and their fictional narratives. The class wishes to challenge students to expand their understanding of a different culture, to rethink their place in the global world, and to prepare themselves as future leaders. As Professor Scott McLennan from Stanford's Global Business School says, we can learn from fictional characters “not only in their work environment, and in decision-making moments, but in their larger life.” This class also allows the students to seriously READ, DISCUSS, and WRITE in a time when few leaders do critical reading and constructive discussions.

修業年限

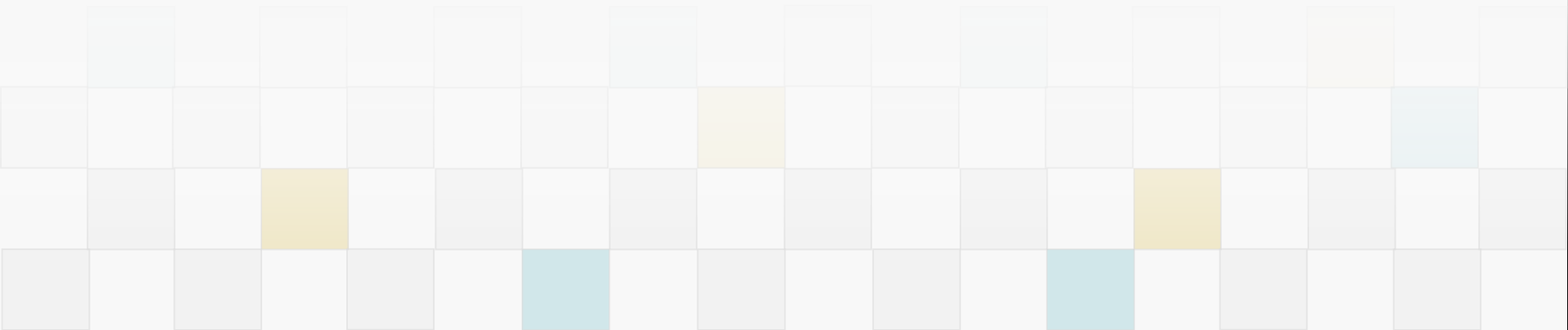
We will start with the classic Greek tragedy, *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles, and examine how this western archetype shapes the primordial leadership in the western civilization. We will then read excerpts of two famous Shakespeare's "king" plays: *Othello* and *King Lear*. From the two tragic leaders of the nation, how can we learn from their flaws? George Orwell's story, *Animal Farm*, has been an influential work, with easy language and allegories, to portray what happens after the revolution when civilians become the leaders. C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is a fantasy novel for children, but it also delivers messages, lessons, and guidelines for the children how to lead a team and how to work with the team. *The Great Gatsby*, perhaps

one of the most influential contemporary American novels, depicts the life of the legendary tycoon, Jay Gatsby, who also represents the rise of the American empire in the early twentieth century. We will look at Gatsby's characterization and character. On the other side of the USA, John Steinbeck, the 1962 Nobel Prize winner in literature, has produced works about the American frontier. We will read the cowboy story "The Leader of the People" from *The Red Pony* to fully understand how America as a rising country with the frontier spirits is well represented in Steinbeck's story. Lastly, we will read the Nigerian classic *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, on the list of ALL-TIME 100 Novels (1923-2005), because the novel helps people see the juxtaposition of traditional African society with the imposition of Western religion, military, and transaction.

課程介紹(續)

The class will be mainly lecture-based with questions for discussions, structured in a “two-hour lecture & one-hour discussion” format. It will be conducted mainly in English with Chinese explanations. Students are encouraged to use both languages for discussion.

每學年分成三學期



課程介紹(中文)

領導力是與生俱來還是可以透過經驗學習的？商業理論模式可以教出領導力嗎？「領導」處理的是人類的問題及其複雜程度，包括文化、價值、信仰體系。從人類文明濫觴至今，我們見證了不同帝國的興衰及帝王的起落，而從歷史敘述或文學創作作品中，我們可以理解到領導力的養成並非可以從既定的商業或政治模式而來，而是可以藉由閱讀文學經典，藉由同理/情心，端倪出歷時不衰並超越時代的永恆價值。這堂課希望從閱讀西方文學經典，分析文本及其故事陳述，來探討領導的主題。本門課亦希望挑戰學生從英文原著去理解另一個文化，重新定位我們在全球化的脈絡位置，進而為領導力做思考預備。誠如史丹佛的管院教授麥克蘭所言，從小說的角色裡，我們學到的「不只是他們的工作環境，以及他們在做決策的當下，甚而是他們更廣泛的生活經驗」。在今天數位化的年代，越來越少領導者有時間從事深度的閱讀及進行有建設性的討論，這門課的目的給與修課的學生從另一個角度，重新嚴肅的閱讀，討論及書寫。

課程介紹(續)

我們從希臘悲劇《伊底帕斯王》開始，看這部悲劇如何奠定西方文明對領導者的想像及領導的原型。接下來節選閱讀兩部莎士比亞有名的「國王」悲劇《奧賽羅》及《李爾王》。作為統治者，他們呈現的悲劇性格如何當我們的借鏡？英國作家喬治歐威爾的《動物農莊》是當代具有影響力的寓言故事，從敘述的語言和寓意，我們會探討革命成功後，平民變成領導者會發生了什麼事？接著會探討另一個英國作家C.S.路易斯寫的奇幻小說，

《[獅子·女巫·魔衣櫥](#)》，這本書不只是給兒童閱讀的最佳讀物，小說裡傳達了許多深刻的領導意涵，譬如小孩之間如何傳達信息，如何在團隊合作等等。探討完歐陸的作品，課程移到新大陸，從美東到美西看領導力。紐約作家費茲傑羅的《大亨小傳》講的不只是大亨蓋茲比從無名小卒的崛起到著名大亨的隕落，他代表的更是美國在二十世紀初期。在成為超級強國前的社會、經濟、文化的美國夢原型。而西岸作家約翰史坦貝克，也是1962年的諾貝爾文學獎得主寫的成長小說《小紅馬》寫的是西部拓荒的精神，藉由故事中的主人翁看他如何在西部領土擴張的年代，引領同行，開疆闢土。

課程介紹(續)

最後要讀的文本是奈及利亞的小說家阿契貝寫的《分崩離析》，這本小說被曾被《時代》雜誌評選全球**100大最佳英文小說（1923-2005）**，書中以非洲部落文化對抗外來殖民文化對部落的宗教、軍事、交易的控制，從主角的觀點了解文化衝突對雙方的影響。本堂課以教師以英文授課為主，輔以中文解釋。以前兩個小時授課第三個小時討論為原則。修課學生需要課前完成閱讀，課堂中參與中英文討論。學期成績以參與率，討論及三篇報告為主要衡量標準。

每學年分成三學期

上課要求

Since this is a class conducted entirely in English with necessary explanations in Chinese, the students should at least feel comfortable with an English-speaking environment. It is challenging but definitely rewarding at the end of the semester. There will be no written exams, but the students will submit 3 working journals (length will be decided) with assigned topics. Attendance is also important. Casual drinking is also allowed and perhaps encouraged in class, for it inspires more in-class discussions. No due paper after the due date or online submission accepted. Plagiarism will result in zero for that assignment. 遲交作業或電子交件不收，抄襲以零分計算。

Textbooks

The books will be available at Bookman 書林書局 or available online depending on the students' preferences.

Grading Criteria

Attendance, participation, and class discussions: 40%

Writing Assignments 60% (20% for each)

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週次	主題
1	Introduction
2	<i>Oedipus the King</i>
3	<i>Oedipus the King</i>
4	<i>Othello</i> (excerpt)
5	<i>King Lear</i> (excerpt)
6	<i>Animal Farm</i> ; Journal 1 Due
7	<i>Animal Farm</i>
8	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>

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週次	主題
9	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>
10	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> ; Journal 2 Due
11	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
12	“The Leadership of the People” from <i>The Red Pony</i>
13	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>
14	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>
15	Review; Journal 3 Due