

Jeffrey Becker

Pacific Seminar II

This Pacific Seminar II class focuses on exploring questions about what it means to be a leader, and what it means to exercise power in a good society. This course will involve students in the study, practice, and reflection upon the place of leadership and political power in a good society. This course poses questions central to making sense of leadership and power in a good society. What is leadership? How do you, and how can you, recognize leadership? What traits and attributes make up a good leader? What are the capabilities and limits of leaders to create conditions that promote a “good society?” Students will develop individual research projects that combine class readings, assignments, and exercises centered on the themes of leadership, and the ethics of exercising power in a good society, with active participation in activities involving the pursuit and exercise of leadership positions.

Students will take an active role researching, analyzing, and participating in a campaign for a leadership position. Through researching and actually participating in an individual candidate’s campaign, statewide or local ballot initiative, or their own campaign for a leadership position, students will gain experience applying approaches and theories of leadership, and the exercise of power, to the practical aspects of being a citizen. This course requires students to integrate their practical engagement with a campaign, and/or statewide ballot initiative with classroom writing assignments, discussion, and exercises in leadership, public-speaking, and political decision-making.