

### **MGT 889 Management Leadership and Literature**

Compare and contrast Bernie Madoff and Macbeth. Was Macbeth a good leader compared to Madoff? Were they rational, power-hungry, or deranged? If you had been in Macbeth's situation, would you have acted differently? How? If you had worked for Madoff, what would you have done to mitigate the damage and suffering he caused? This SOM elective uses [humanities](#)--unusual and classic works of [art](#), fiction and non-fiction, as well as films—to help members of the class actively reflect on leadership as it pertains to their personal and career aspirations, attitudes, and experiences. The [art](#), literature and films used in this class challenge conventional morality and present perspectives from mundane daily life (think of Willy Loman, a man of sales) to the triumphs and failures of monumental leaders (Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Franklin D. Roosevelt). This elective supports your growth as a leader by asking you to: think, write, and speak about your values and commitments; analyze what those values imply for your career and legacy, as well as your accountability to others and to yourself; and identify the skills you need to develop, based on an analysis of your strengths and weaknesses. The key questions to ask about the main characters in the works you read and watch are: What greater purpose and thinking underlie their actions? What core values guided how they engaged with others—both near and distant? What skills (or lack thereof) or factors beyond their control were relevant to the eventual outcomes? As this class is discussion-based, you will have the opportunity to hone arguments and analyses about the works themselves, as well as their relationship to your own experiences, and to events encountered every day in the headlines and the world of business, from Main Street to Wall Street. Be prepared to read, watch, think, reflect, write, share, express, debate, question, and think again. This course requires active participation.

The first and the last classes of the course (October 25 and December 6), will meet in the lobby of Yale University Art Gallery (at Chapel and York), a 20 minute walk from SOM. All those interested in the class (registered as well as waitlisted) must attend the first meeting (since there is no way to make it up later, your attendance is necessary).