Values-Based Political Leadership and Public Policy
Tuesdays; 5:00 – 7:50 pm; VKC Rm 201
POSC 323: Applied Politics; Section 51960; Fall 2014

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“Leadership is a matter of how to be, not how to do. We spend most of our lives mastering how to do things, but in the end it is the quality and character of the individual that defines the performance of great leaders.”

Taking its lead from the above quote from the Drucker Foundation, this leadership class will endeavor to answer the following four questions:

1) What does it take to be a great leader and should one lead based on ambition, need, passion or values?
2) How can leaders do more than inspire others and actually be successful at managing and creating positive change?
3) Do we need to attract and inspire a “different” type of student to become tomorrow’s leaders and what does that mean? Is there a moral/social conscience to leadership and can the nice kid in the class become a great leader?
4) How will you personally leave or make your mark on your community, family, state or country?

The course will consist of student, faculty and guest lecturer led discussions on current problems and opportunities facing today’s graduates as they relate to politics, government, business and the non-profit marketplace. It will use academic literature, current events, local and national politics, pop culture, film, TV and news accounts to stimulate and augment the discussions.

Anthony Portantino is a former Mayor and State Assemblymember. In the legislature he established himself as a maverick politician promoting transparency and accountability. Since leaving office, he has been on the USC campus as one of the two legislators in residence through the Unruh Institute of Politics. In addition, he hosts a monthly public policy talk show on Charter Cable Television, The Question Is with Anthony Portantino.