

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Leadership

Course Number and Section:

GLE

2003F 550

Instructor Name(s): Kathyryne (Kasey) Van Hedger

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

If ever there was a time when leadership really matters in the world, it's now. The past few years have included all manner of challenges: Ongoing and escalating climate change induced disasters; a global pandemic leading to millions of deaths, lockdowns and disruptions to every part of life; rapid technological change, creating both new challenges and opportunities; changing international relations, impacting people and communities around the world; rapid inflation leading to significant affordability challenges, particularly for core needs like food and housing; escalating and ongoing conflicts that come in contentious political times. In so many ways, the world is changing and the challenges people face are becoming more complex.

What does leadership look like in this moment? Is leadership an opportunity reserved for those with important positions or large platforms, or can it emerge from less expected places? What, exactly, is leadership – and what forces and factors are shaping the current context for leaders? Or for leadership? What does it mean to be an effective leader – or, a leader with heart – during extraordinary times or when faced with increasingly unprecedented challenges?

If you find yourself with more questions than answers when thinking about leaders and leadership in the current context and a strong appetite to explore these questions – well, this course is for you.

Learning Outcomes:

Identify, classify, compare, critically integrate, and generalize theories, research methods, and core ideas related to the nature and styles of leadership

Integrate knowledge and develop a critical understanding of the connections and interplay between leaders and followers

Demonstrate critical awareness of and commitment to the public good and ethical leadership, including transparency and accountability

Develop self-awareness about their own leadership approaches and interests

Understand and critically analyze the challenges and opportunities faced by contemporary leaders

Textbooks and Course Materials:

This course draws extensively on one central textbook which students are strongly encouraged to obtain. Please access the 10th edition:

Peter G. Northouse (2026), Leadership Theory and Practice, 10th Edition, Sage College Publishing.

The textbook is available via the Western Bookstore. The book costs \$94 for a 180-day e-book or \$241 to purchase a hard copy (purchase here: [link for Section 550 students](#) and for [Section 551 students](#)). Copies are also available for short term use at the Huron library (details here).

Where other materials are drawn upon in the class, these will be provided in OWL Brightspace at no additional cost to students. Course materials may change or be added, as events develop (e.g., relevant media articles about current events could be added throughout the course).

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Contributions	12/09/25	20%
Your Leadership Strengths - An Introspective Journal	10/03/25	15%
Leadership in Popular Culture - Small Group Presentations	12/09/25	15%
Leader Interview & Reflection Paper	11/14/25	25%
Final Exam	12/11/25	25%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Wednesday, August 13, 2025