

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Leadership

Course Number and Section:

GLE

2003G 551

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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, it's now. The past few years have included all manner of challenges: climate change induced disasters; a global pandemic leading to millions of deaths, lockdowns and disruptions to every part of life; economic recession and disruptions; an uprising to address systemic racism and oppression; escalating conflict and uncertainties that come in contentious political times.

It is also a time when we see new leaders rising up, in their own spaces and sectors, to lead us through the challenges we face. Sometimes these leaders emerge from peak posts within organizations or institutions; but, often they emerge from far less expected places. Teenagers are leading protests of thousands. Faith leaders are reaching beyond their traditional communities to address major social issues. Simple acts such as taking a knee or wearing a mask (or not) have become mobilizing expressions.

But what exactly is leadership? What forces and factors are shaping the current context for leadership? Who are the voices that we are not hearing, but need to be? Are the tasks of leadership today common across sectors, or is there variation in the skills and knowledge needed? What does it mean to be an effective leader – or, a leader with heart – during extraordinary times or when faced with unprecedented challenges?

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

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify, classify, compare, critically integrate, and generalize using theories, research methods, and core ideas related to the nature and styles of leadership;
- Integrate knowledge and develop critical understanding of the connections and interplay between governance and leadership;
- Demonstrate critical awareness of and commitment to the public good and ethical decision making, including transparency and accountability;
- Develop self-awareness about their own leadership approaches and interests; and

- Understand and critically analyze the new and emerging paradigm of leadership.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

This course draws on one central textbook which students are strongly encouraged to obtain either by purchasing (link for Western bookstore - e-book is \$97 and paperback is \$183) or accessing through the library:

Peter G. Northouse (2021), *Leadership Theory and Practice*, 9th Edition, Sage College Publishing. Note: any recent edition of this textbook is fine.

We will also be drawing on an array of materials including journal articles, media reports, podcasts and more. All readings are posted in the schedule below, and when possible will be made available in OWL. Weekly readings may change or be added, as events develop (eg. relevant media articles about current events will be added throughout the course).

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Contributions	April 4, 2025	20
Introspective Journal	January 31, 2025	20
Leadership in Pop Culture Presentation	April 4, 2025	20
Peer Feedback Contributions	April 4, 2025	10
Leader Profile Final Essay	March 28, 2025	30

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024