

Biol 1301: Becoming a Reflective Leader

Sample Course Syllabus

Course Description:

This course is designed for Dean's Scholars students to learn about leadership theory and concepts, explore your personal views on leadership, and understand the value of self-reflection in your personal development. The course will provide you with a framework to increase your understanding of leadership and examine how you can be more intentional about your leadership development.

Course Objectives:

You will achieve the following objectives upon completion of the course:

- Explain basic principles of leadership theories throughout history
- Understand how leadership is socially constructed
- Evaluate personal values and articulate a leadership philosophy

Course Text:

Readings will be posted on the course Moodle site.

Accommodations:

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disability conditions that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services for a confidential discussion of their individualized needs for accommodations. Disability Services is located in Suite 180 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street. Staff can be reached by calling 612-626-1333 voice or TTY. Students who are physically or otherwise challenged should also contact the instructors of this course to discuss teaching strategies that might best facilitate their learning.

Mental Health and Stress Management:

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Student Mental Health Website at <http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu>.

Class Etiquette:

You are expected to exhibit courtesy and respect toward your instructor, Peer Mentors, and fellow students. It is important to be tolerant of different viewpoints, values, and opinions in order to create a positive learning environment for everyone. Please keep in mind the following expectations and values during class discussions:

- We are all teachers, and we are all learners
- Each of us brings valuable contributions to this course
- We grow and move forward based on our interactions as a class
- What we learn in this course is determined by our mutual contributions, interactions, and relationships
- Each of us may have different leadership styles and our leadership experiences may take many shapes, but we are all leaders in very important ways

You can expect me, your instructor for the course, to do my best to answer your questions, provide assistance, challenge your assumptions, and respect your opinions. I will do my best to make sure I am accessible to you throughout the class and consider your feedback and goals when making plans for our time together.

Assignments & Grading:

This one credit course is graded Pass/Fail (S/N). **You must earn a minimum of 70 out of 100 possible points (70%) to earn a grade of "S" for the course.** Points can be earned as follows:

Attendance & Participation (45 points)

Class attendance and participation are required to be successful in the course. As part of the class attendance and participation points, you will meet in a small group with one of the Dean's Scholars Peer Mentors and 7-9 of your classmates. You will be discussing content from class, along with other topics that will help you with your transition to CBS and the U of M. It is expected that you will treat the Peer Mentor meetings as a class.

Instructor consent is required before missing a class, including your Peer Mentor meetings. Participation includes completing readings on time, being involved in class exercises, and being engaged in large group and small group discussions. You will be awarded participation points for each class, including your Peer Mentor meetings.

Reflective Writing (10 points each)

There are **two** reflective writing assignments throughout the semester. These papers should be 2 pages in length, typed, and double-spaced with one inch margins. Specific questions to address in each paper will be posted on Moodle.

Final Paper (25 points)

The final paper is a synthesis of the ideas discussed throughout the semester and a formal articulation of your leadership philosophy. The paper should describe your current state of leadership development and your action plan for the future. Additional guidelines will be distributed for the assignment later in the semester. Your paper should be 4-5 pages in length, typed, and double-spaced.

Presentation (10 points)

You will give a 3 minute (maximum) presentation regarding your leadership philosophy in class.

Late Work:

All assignments must be submitted on time. **Late work will not be accepted, unless you have contacted the instructor before the due date and made prior arrangements.** *Please note: Missing a class session does not excuse you from completing any future assignments on time.*

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in university courses are expected to complete coursework with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment, please ask!

Sample Class Topics	Sample Assignments
Welcome to the Dean's Scholars Program! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Overview of Dean's Scholars Program • Review syllabus • What does leadership mean to you? 	
Overview of Leadership Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution of leadership theories • The social construction of leadership • Evaluating leaders, i.e., what does a leader look like? 	Reading: An Introduction to Leadership – Komives Reading: What is Social Construction? – Paul Boghossian
Self-Awareness and Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DiSC assessment 	Reading: Understanding Yourself - Komives Reading: Consciousness of Self – Justin Fincher
Values and Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values clarification • Congruence & authenticity • Citizenship & leadership 	Reflective Writing #1
Leading with Others, Part I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group dynamics • Socially intelligent leadership 	Reading: Emotionally Intelligent Leadership - Shankman Reading: Social Intelligence and the Biology of Leadership - Goleman
Leading with Others, Part II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difference and diversity 	
Leadership in the Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service and citizenship 	Reflective Writing #2 Reading: In the Service of Life – Remen
Leadership Philosophy Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual presentations 	Reading: Envision – Burchard
Leadership Philosophy Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual presentations • Course evaluations 	Final Paper