

REL 310 010 Church Leadership

INSTITUTION: Reinhardt College
COURSE: Rel 301
CREDIT: 3 Credit Hours
TERM AND YEAR: Spring Semester, 2023
SESSION: August 15, 2022 – December 4, 2022
SCHEDULE, SECTION MWF 9 – 10 AM
LOCATION: Tarpley 109
INSTRUCTOR: Joshua Garner
Adjunct Professor of Religion & FYS
Director of Spiritual Life, Leadership, and Service
OFFICE HOURS: You may call or email to make an appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the nature of church leadership from its theological basis to its organizational demands. The primary emphasis will be on, but not limited to, church leadership in the local church.

RELIGION PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be able to think critically and be able to express their ideas in writing, speech, and visual media.
2. Students will become familiar with a variety of research methods appropriate to the field of Religion, particularly those relevant to the study of primary sources.
3. Students will be able to exhibit knowledge of the Judeo-Christian traditions.
4. Students will develop their own understanding of moral and spiritual issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will gain a better understanding of their unique calling in Christian ministry.
2. Students will be better prepared to serve effectively in a church leadership position.
3. Students will discover, develop, and practice necessary skills for ministry.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will examine the purpose of church leadership from biblical, theological and historical perspectives. (RPO 1,2,3,5) (CO 1,2)
2. Students will listen and learn from a variety of church leaders as we study their approach to leadership. (RPO 1,2,5) (CO 1,2,3)
3. Students will learn about different approaches to church leadership, as well as, how to adapt its primary principles to a variety of unique ministry settings. (RPO 1,2,3,5) (CO 1,2,3)
4. Students will practice necessary skills to become an effective church leader, including designing and leading bible studies, public speaking, empowering laity, handling difficult situations, etc. (RPO 1,2,3,5) (CO 1,2,3)
5. Students will reflect on their own Christian journey and actively discern God's call in their lives. (RPO 1,35) (CO 1,3)
6. Students will explore the possibilities, as well as, uncover some limitations in the field of church leadership. (RPO 1,2) (CO 1,2,3)

GRADING POLICY

Your academic performance will be evaluated based on a **100 point-scale**. All the points you earn for every assignment need to be added to your accumulated total, not averaged out. At the end of the course, the points you accumulate will give you the corresponding letter-grade according to the following scale: **F (0 -59 points); D (60-69 points); C (70-79 points); B (80-89 points); A (90-100 points)**. The assignments with their corresponding assigned points will be distributed as follows:

Reflection Essays: (10 points)

- Essay # 1 *"My Call"* (5 points) Participating in this class indicates that you are actively discerning a call into the ministry. In 2 pages, describe your call into the ministry. Describe where and how you feel called to lead in the church. What is your religious background? What have been foundational moments for you in your faith and those that have led you to this point? Include where you are now on your spiritual journey.
- Essay # 2 *"My Leadership Experience"* (5 points) In 2 pages, describe any leadership experiences you have had thus far. What did you think a leader was before your experience and after your experience? What did you enjoy about these

experiences? How did these challenge you? What lessons have you learned about leadership that you feel you can apply to a ministry setting? What are your strengths and what are your weaknesses when leading others? What do you hope to learn about leadership from this course?

* These essays must be 2 full pages in length, double-spaced, 12 character-font, well written, insightful, and turned in on time. For the due date, see “Calendar of Topics and Assignments” below. We will discuss in class

Book Reviews (20 points)

Each student will pick 2 leadership books from our recommended reading list to read over the course of the semester. The students will write a 3-page review highlighting the overall themes of the work. What was the author's main point? How did the author make their argument? What were your biggest take-aways? How will you implement these lessons into your leadership? Did you disagree with the author? You will present your reviews in class.

*These reviews must be 3 full pages in length, double-spaced, 12 character-font, well- written, insightful, and turned in on time. For the due date, see “Calendar of Topics and Assignments” below. We will share these in class.

Interviews (20 points)

Interview four church leaders. More than one denomination must be represented. One of the interviews must be with a small church pastor where there is only one clergyperson. There other must be a pastor in a multi-staff church. The other two interviews may include someone other than the pastor-in-charge, so long as they are employed as a church leader. You will need to consult with the instructor to get approval for your interviewees. An interview questionnaire will be given to you and must be filled out and submitted for each person interviewed. In addition, write an 6-page paper summarizing the interviews and lessons learned. You will present your summary in class with a prepared presentation.

Practicum (20 points)

A class on church leadership necessitates putting what we learn into practice. During the semester, you much choose a leadership project. The nature of your project will depend upon your call into the ministry. Your assignment can include coordinating service projects, teaching a small group study or preaching in a variety of settings. You will work with the instructor to determine your leadership project. These practicums must be four to six weeks in length.

Final Reflection Presentation (20 points)

Now that you have read about church leadership, listened to other church leaders and have gained some first-hand experience, create a 10 minute presentation on what you believe are the essentials to be an effective church leader. What makes a good leader? What did you discover about your leadership style? Your strength and growth areas? What are your gifts and what are your gifts as a leader? What did you learn from your practicum exercises? What is the next step for you?

* This presentation must be 10 minutes in length. It can include a powerpoint, video, or any other medium you wish to display your learning. For the due date, see “Calendar of Topics and Assignments” below.

Class attendance / discussion / journaling (10 points)

This is a hands-on course. You are expected to be an active participant, which means that you are expected to attend and be prepared for each class, participate in class discussion.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is an obligation, but also a privilege we must not take for granted. Formal education is a blessing not too many people enjoy. Missing too many classes will have negative implications on your percentages and/or final grade; it can even make you fail the course.

HONOR CODE

Students are expected to follow the Reinhardt College Code of Conduct.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will need a computer to submit required files and file types for assignments. They must also make sure that the WIFI connection is available and strong.

CREDIT HOUR STATEMENT

Over 15 weeks, students will spend 150 minutes per week in lectures, class discussions, and examinations (37.5 hours for the semester). Instructional time includes a 3-hour final exam. Out-of-class work includes papers, reports, service as volunteers, visits to religious places, and preparation for exams, and is estimated at around 300 minutes per week (75 hours for the semester).

CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS.

For those students needing help with their papers, study habits, note-taking, and preparation for test-taking, please make an appointment at “the Center for Student Success” (Lawson, bottom floor). They will more than happy to help you out. Your instructor is willing to give you a hand outside of the classroom as well.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

Students with learning disabilities must read and comply with the following statements:

“The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a documented disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Support Office (ASO). Reinhardt University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Therefore, if you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Academic Support Office (ASO). ASO is located in the basement of Lawson Building. Phone is 770-720-5567. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper ASO letters/forms.”

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS.

Having in mind that education is about equipping students with the values, skills, knowledge, and experiences to interact with the world in relevant and transformative ways, it is expected that student will honor a set of ethical, professional, and civil principles that will guide their actions in this course. We hereby outline some of the most important ones:

1. **ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES.** In an effort to create a culture of learning, professionalism, and civility, all students are expected **to attend class faithfully and on time**. Although the Reinhardt Catalog states that attendance is an “obligation,” please remember that attending class is also a privilege. Formal education is a blessing not too many people enjoy. Missing too many classes (without any legitimate justifications) **will have negative implications** on your percentages and/or final grade; it can even make you fail the course. In the case of an emergency or justified absences, please contact the instructor by phone and via email in advance to indicate the reasons why you were not or will not be in class. Those of you **who play sports** must contact your instructor individually and in advance to make arrangements regarding attendance, due dates for

papers, test-taking, etc. All students are responsible to know about all the changes made to this course's meetings, expectations, dates, and/or assignments.

2. *INTEGRITY, SAFETY, AND PROFESSIONALISM.* Throughout this course the following ethical principles are assumed as norms of conduct:
 - a. **ALL STUDENTS MUST FOLLOW ALL REINHARDT'S GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS REGARDING WHAT TO DO TO KEEP US SAFE DURING THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC.**
 - b. Any form of **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** will not be acceptable. Plagiarism or cheating will make you fail this course.
 - c. Good-in-class behavior is assumed as a norm. Any form of disrupting behavior is not acceptable. It is assumed that each student will follow the Reinhardt code of conduct as explained in the student handbook.
 - d. **LAPTOP COMPUTERS** may only be used for **TAKING NOTES**. Failure to comply with this requirement will have negative implications on you grade. You must be fully present! Failure to comply with this requirement will have negative implications on you grade.
 - e. The conditions of this syllabus are binding and must be followed faithfully. The instructor assumes you all know its content. By deciding to take this course, you ALL AGREE to follow the norms ruling this course. Any violation of these rules may impact negatively the students' grades.
 - f. Any comment or suggestion that contributes to your growth as students, the improvement of this class, and a learning environment is welcome. The instructor is here to help you succeed and be a better human being. He is also here to learn from you and grow with you. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to ask for help. Feel free to contact him at any time.
3. *COMMUNICATION MODE.* All of you are responsible for **constantly checking CANVAS and your Reinhardt email accounts** regarding issues pertaining to this course (materials, lectures, announcements, class schedule changes, grades, etc.). **Do not use personal emails.**
4. *IMPORTANT REINHARDT INFORMATION AND DATES.*
 - **August 16** - Final day to add P-designated online courses
 - **August 22** - Final day to change schedule, end of drop/add

- **August 29** - Last day to submit a graduation application for May 2022 degree completion without a late fee.
- **October 11** - Final date to withdraw with grade of W, full semester classes
- **October 17-28** - Advising/Registration for winter 2023, and spring and summer 2023

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Coyle, Daniel. The Culture Code: The Secrets of Highly Effective Groups New York: Bantam Books, 2018.

Maxwell, John C. The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.

Blanchard, Ken & Spencer Johnson. The One Minute Manager. New York: Harper Collins, 1982.

Carnegie, Dale. How to Win Friends and Influence People. New York :Simon & Schuster, 2009.

Cartmill, Carol and Yvonne Gentile. Leadership Essentials: Practical Tools for Leading in Church. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

Collins, Jim. Good to Great. London, England: Random House, 2001.

Dungy, Tony. Quiet Strength: A Memoir. Carol Stream, Ill: Tyndale, 2007.

Finsel, Hans. The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make. Colorado Springs: NexGen, 2000.

Howell, James C. Servants, Misfits, and Martyrs: Saints and Their Stories. Upper Room Books, 1999.

Lencioni, Patrick. The Five Dysfunctions of a Team. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.

Nouwen, Henri J.M. In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Church Leadership. New York: Crossroad, 1989.

McNeal, Reggie. A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.

Sinek, Simon. Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action. London: Portfolio, 2007.

Stanley, Andy. Visioneering: Your Guide for Discovering and Maintaining Personal Vision. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2005.

Stanley, Andy. Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

Jones, Lane & Stanley, Andy. Communicating for a Change: Seven Keys to Irresistible Communication. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2006.

Stanley, Andy. Making Vision Stick. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week # 1		
Date	Topic	Assignment
January 8	Introduction to the Course	
January 10	What is leadership? What is church? What is church leadership? calling?	

Week # 2		
Date	Topic	Assignment
January 15	MLK Day of Service	Calling Essay due by midnight 1/15
January 17	Lessons from Dr. King; How do we hear & see Dr. King's Faith in his leadership?	

Week # 3		
Date	Topic	Assignment
January 22	Denominations & church structures	Leadership Essay due by midnight 8/30
January 24	The Business of Church	Determine your Practicum Assignment by 1/24. Discuss with professor.

Week # 4		
Date	Topic	Assignment
January 29	Types of Church Leaders & their roles	
January 31	Maxwell's <i>Laws of Leadership</i> 1-4	Determine your Interview Candidates by 1/31. Discuss with professor.

Week # 5		
Date	Topic	Assignment
February 5	Maxwell's <i>Laws of Leadership</i> 5-8	
February 7	Maxwell's <i>Laws of Leadership</i> 9 - 12	

Week # 6		
Date	Topic	Assignment
February 12	Maxwell's <i>Laws of Leadership</i> 13-16	
February 14	Maxwell's <i>Laws of Leadership</i> 17-21	

Week # 7		
Date	Topic	Assignment
February 19	Interview Work Week	Book Review 1 due by midnight 2/19
February 21	Interview Work Week	

Week # 8		
Date	Topic	Assignment
February 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/discover-your-leadership-style-louie-giglio/ 	
February 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/leadership-lessons-from-a-black-belt-rener-gracie/ 	

Week # 9		
Date	Topic	Assignment
March 4	Spring Break	
March 6	Spring Break	

Week # 10		
Date	Topic	Assignment
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/cynt-marshall-on-being-the-first-black-female-ceo-in-the-nba/ 	Book Review 2 due by midnight 3/11
March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/albert-tate-the-art-of-vulnerable-communication/ 	

Week # 11		
Date	Topic	Assignment
March 18	https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/mastering-john-maxwells-laws-of-communication/	
March 20	https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/q-a-with-sadie-robertson-huff-leading-beyond-your-age/	

Week # 12		
Date	Topic	Assignment
March 25	https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/8-habits-of-great-leaders-part-1/	
March 27	https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/8-habits-of-great-leaders-part-2/	

Week # 13		
Date	Topic	Assignment
April 1	https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/be-a-leader-worth-trusting-dr-henry-cloud/	
April 3	https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/unlock-your-inner-genius-erwin-mcmanus/	

Week # 14		
Date	Topic	Assignment
April 8	https://www.life.church/leadershippodcast/q-a-with-tim-tebow-earning-respect-as-a-leader/	
April 10	Work Week	Interview Paper due by midnight April 10th

Week # 15		
Date	Topic	Assignment
April 15	Class Presentations	
April 17	Class Presentations	

Week # 16		
Date	Topic	Assignment
April 22	Class Presentations	
April 24	Class Presentations	