New Interdepartmental Course: Leadership and Character

**Purpose:**

- To provide a comprehensive series of workshops, seminars, events and experiences to develop and increase leadership capabilities within students and campus organizations;
- To promote W&L’s core values of academic excellence, civility, personal honor and integrity, emphasizing leadership based on tangible and intangible foundations and qualities;
- To empower participants to be good citizens, contributing within this community for the benefit of the common good.

**Bibliography:**


The Leadership Challenge James Kouzes and Barry Posner (1995, Jossey Bass, CA)

The Power of Character Michael Josephson and Wes Hanson (1998, Jossey Bass, CA)


Exploring Leadership – for college students who want to make a difference Susan Komives, Nance Lucas and Tim McMahon (1998, Jossey Bass, CA)

Please Understand Me II: Character, Temperament and Intelligence David Kiersey (1998, Prometheus Nemesis Books Co)

The Parable of the Sadhu Bowen McCoy (September/October 1983 Harvard Business Review)

I propose meeting four times a week in one hour sessions for the six week spring term. This allows for 48 hours of class instruction and discussion.

**Requirements:**

Class attendance is mandatory, but each student will be allowed two excused absences; after two, each missed class results in the drop of a letter grade. Class size is limited to twenty students, none of whom can be seniors. **Class participation:** 15%

**Paper:** Profile a contemporary leader according to the following criteria: how well do they accomplish the five leadership principles described by Kouzes and Posner? What deductions about their temperament and intelligence can you make, based on Kiersey’s theories? Are they effective as leaders: why or why not? Five – seven pages. 25%

**Group project** on goal setting: student groups of three or four must select a specific campus issue that needs reform or revitalization (examples will be provided: alcohol policy, lack of fan support for athletics, diversity, utilization of new Commons, erosion of student self government, apathy within a particular student organization, effectiveness of Traveler, etc.). They must research the history of issues, development of policy, establish goals for reform or renewal, assign tasks within group and provide timetable for evaluation. An oral presentation in class is required, and one five - seven page paper must be submitted. 35%

**Final exam:** 25%

**Session 1**
Introduction of syllabus
Exploring Leadership: definitions and theories EL pp. 1-65; OL intro, pp. 1-37
Session 2
POC pp. 142-150, 160-170, 200-208

Session 3
The Character of Leadership: future solutions  EL pp. 247-277

Session 4
Knowing Yourself: personality theories  Professor Sayre (psychology)
PUM; EL pp. 107-164

Session 5
Knowing Others: group dynamics  L2L pp. 69-98

Session 6
The Leadership Challenge: three principles  TLC pp. 3-208

First paper assigned

Session 7
The Leadership Challenge: two principles  TLC pp 209-316

Session 8
Experiential learning; challenge course goals: communication, trust, teambuilding, strategic planning

Session 9
Virtues of leadership, citizenship  Professor Griffith (philosophy)
handouts

Session 10
Virtues of leadership: theological virtues  handouts

Session 11
Virtues of leadership: cardinal virtues  handouts

Session 12
Vision and Goal Setting  L2L pp. 99-118, 143-166; handouts

Present parameters/ assign group project/paper
Leadership principles paper due

Session 13
Running Meetings: Robert’s Rules or Consensus? Compare and contrast two styles

Session 14
Parable of the Sadhu  POC pp. 22-30, 181-198; L2L pp. 119-142

Session 15
Leadership: Ethics or Morals?  Professor Griffith (philosophy)
EL pp. 247-277; POC pp. 6-22, 190-208, 347-355

Session 16
Leading From Within: spirituality and leadership  Parker Palmer’s Booklet

Session 17
Group presentations
Papers due
Session 18
Group presentations

Session 19

Session 20
Masculine and Feminine Spirituality   handouts

Session 21
Time Management, Conflict Resolution   handouts/ (Professor Beth Belmont; University mediator)

Session 22
Conflict Resolution, negotiation skills   handouts

Session 23
Servant Leadership   Servant Leadership by Robert Greenleaf

Session 24
Public relations: media: print, TV, radio, etc.   Professor Richardson (journalism)

Session 25 (optional)
Celebrating Leadership: challenge course experience