

<p style="text-align: center;">Peer Leadership Council Program Syllabus</p>

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Program Objectives:

1. To explore complex issues such as diversity, civic engagement, and reflection in the context of women's leadership.
2. To network with other campus leaders.
3. To create an action plan that will directly impact your community.
4. To further develop leadership skills such as group-process, communication, ethical decision-making, and followership.
5. To prepare existing leaders to contribute to their community at Barnard College and beyond.

Program Requirements:

- Each program participant is responsible for attending each session of the program. Program dates were clearly listed in all publicity and in this syllabus.
- We know that we all need the right balance of challenge and support. You will face great challenge this year with your academics, your co-curricular involvement, and your personal life. The structure provided in this explicit syllabus is intended to provide as much support as possible to make details clear and predictable and eliminate most ambiguity as you begin this program. You can plan your time better with this detail. We also know that each of you has different preferences in learning styles: this program is designed to provide reading, talking, listening, reflecting, working individually and in teams, experiential activities, and individual attention as well as large program activity. Let us know how any activity might be modified or designed to be of greatest benefit to you. At the same time, stretch yourself to learn in different modes.
- You should complete all assigned readings before the scheduled class sessions. Your responsibility to other program participants and presenters is to be prepared and able to engage in large group discussion and small group interaction activities.
- You will get out of this experience what you put into it. Contact Will when you want to plan, scheme, or just talk.

Assignments and Projects

Over the course of the semester, in addition to readings, you will also be asked to bring a *two to three* page **reflection essay** to each session. At times, I may ask you to share your

essay with another participant for discussion purposes. If at any time you wish to write about something very personal or that you wish a peer not to read, please let me know so that I can make arrangements.

Program participants will also be asked to complete a **final project for presentation** on December 3, 2002. This is a formal presentation to members of the Barnard College administration and faculty.

The council will be divided into several smaller groups. Each of these groups will identify a common cause, issue, or passion and create an action plan that will seek to have an impact upon that issue. How far you take this is up to you. Your presentation should at least cover a historical background and information about the issue and a detailed explanation of your plan.

Because this is a formal presentation, here are a few tips to help you succeed:

- Formal means formal – business attire is suggested. Use an interesting and professional presentation format; conduct yourself in a manner that allows your audience to understand that you speak with authority on your topic. BUT let your own personality shine through. Barnard women are known for their character and individuality.
- You will have approximately 30 minutes to present your plan to the group. 30 minutes can either be a very little time to pack so much information into or so much time that you don't know how to stretch things out. Use your time wisely, do not speed through important information but do not let your audience nod off!
- There's nothing folks like less than unoriginal ideas, even if they are presented in an original format. Expand your minds, think outside the box, and dream big!
- Show pride in your work – give people something to take away with them.

Tentative Schedule

September 23, 2003

5pm – 7pm South Tower

Topic: General overview of leadership and topics covered in the program.

Readings:

Assignment:

October 7, 2003

5pm – 7pm North Tower

Topic: Women In Leadership

Readings:

- Varlotta, “Using Postmodern Feminism to Reconceptualize ‘Citizenship’ & ‘Community’”
- Rosener, “Ways Women Lead”

Assignment:

Please identify a woman in leadership – or a group of women in leadership. After completing this week’s reading assignments, please interview these leaders along the following lines:

1. “What leadership experiences did you have that informed or shaped your current position(s)?”
 2. “Share a valuable lesson that you have learned over the course of your leadership experiences.”
 3. “In what ways does your gender play a role in your leadership style?”
 4. “What are some issues that you believe you share in common with other women in leadership?”
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October 21, 2003

5pm – 7pm North Tower

Topic: Civic Engagement

We will welcome special guest Professor Kathryn Jay who will facilitate this discussion.

Readings:

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Assignment:

November 11, 2003

5pm – 7pm South Tower

Topic: Diversity and Leadership

Readings:

- Kotter, “Successful Change and the Force That Drives It”
- Lorde, “There Is No Hierarchy of Oppressions”
- McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”

Assignment:

After completing the readings for this week’s session, please spend some time in your classes, your organizations, your residence halls, with your family and consider the ways that power, race, class, ethnicity, sexual identity, and gender play a role in the workings of that group of people. Select three concrete examples and describe them and how you make-meaning of them.

November 25, 2002

5pm – 7pm South Tower

Topic: Your choosing

For this session, you may choose as a group a topic pertaining to leadership that may interest you. Possibilities include:

- Ethics and Leadership
- Spirituality and Leadership
- Leadership Identity Development
- Any of your choosing.

You will need to let me know by Session 2 which topic you have chosen so that I may prepare adequately for it!

December 9, 2003

5pm – 7pm Altschul Atrium

Final Project Presentation

We will discuss this in more detail throughout the course of the program.

Remember, this syllabus is only tentative. If you have input about our schedule, please let me know. I am more than willing to work with everyone on assignments and activities that we do.