

## TH/MS 3L03/6L06 Theology of Leadership

McMaster Divinity College  
Fall 2011  
Saturday Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 7, Dec 3  
Office: 216

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Office Hours: Mon 12:30-3:00; Wed 12:00-1:30;  
and by appointment

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### I. Description:

This course explores a variety of contemporary approaches to Christian leadership and proposes a theology of leadership as participation in the mission of the Triune God. The assessment of contemporary approaches discerns and evaluates the explicit and implicit theological assumptions of contemporary views of Christian leadership. The course provides students with the opportunity to evaluate contemporary approaches to Christian ministry and to develop a theology of Christian leadership.

### II. Course Objectives:

#### A. Knowing:

1. Know and describe a variety of contemporary approaches to Christian leadership.
2. Identify and evaluate examples of biblical leadership.

#### B. Being:

1. Appreciate that theology is a dynamic and contextual effort to discern appropriate ways to embody the redemption revealed in Jesus Christ.
2. Embrace a deeper sense of your own theological vision of Christian leadership vis-à-vis other Christian leadership approaches.
3. Develop a greater appreciation for what it means to be a Christian leader.

#### C. Doing:

1. Write a Biblical leadership essay that assess a biblical example of leadership and considers its contribution to a contemporary theology of Christian leadership.
2. Write an essay that describes and theologically evaluates a contemporary approach to Christian leadership.
3. Develop and write an essay that sets forth your theological vision of Christian leadership.
4. Read several select texts or portions of texts in contemporary Christian leadership.

### III. Required Text(s):

The course does not have a mandated text book. Each student will select and read TWO books in contemporary Christian leadership theory. One book can be used as the book for the Leadership Evaluation Essay and Presentation and the other book should reflect one of the leadership approaches covered in the lecture segment I. Assessing Contemporary Approaches to Leadership (see lecture outline and course bibliography for text options).

### IV. Course Performance Criteria:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Due</u>
A. Biblical Leadership Essay:	20%	10/1
B. Leadership Evaluation Essay:	30%	Day of presentation
1) Presentation:	10%	
2) Paper:	20%	
C. Theology of Leadership Paper:	45%	Day of presentation
1) Presentation:	15%	
2) Paper:	30%	
D. Reading:	5%	12/3
E. Participation:	X	
	<hr/> Total: 100%	

### V. Assignment Descriptions:

General Guidelines:

- Electronic copies in MS Word preferred; alternatively, **all** hard copies should be **stapled** and submitted with a **cover sheet**. if you are unable to be in class on the due date because of a foreknown absence; please submit an electronic copy on the due date or a hard copy before the due date.
- Papers and assignments may be submitted early for feedback from the professor and resubmitted on the due date for grading.
- All assignments marked according to the Grading Criteria Form distributed and reviewed first class session
- All papers and assignment should conform to the MacDiv Style Guide

## A. Biblical Leadership Essay (**DUE October 1**)

1. Select a biblical example of leadership for evaluation.
2. Write an evaluation that . . .
  - a. Identifies and describes the leadership “paradigm” or method used by the biblical character/s.
  - b. Assess the contextual and transcendental nature of the leadership paradigm or method of the biblical character/s.

Questions to consider for the assessment of the leadership paradigm are:

- Is the style and leadership method purely contextual? Although the case study may be biblical, in the sense that it is in the Bible, should it be reified as “the” or “a” biblical model of leadership for contemporary Christian leadership?
- What does the example offer to contemporary leadership?  
For example, Jesus’ method is a small group mentoring approach, but is this a ‘biblical model’ of leadership or a style that reflects common leadership practices among first-century religious/philosophical figures?

- c. Length: 5-7 pages

## B. Leadership Evaluation Essay (**DUE day of presentation**):

1. Select one Christian leadership text (see the leadership bibliography and consult with the professor for ideas).
2. Write an analysis of the text’s contribution to leadership that includes the following:
  - a. Structure:
    - One page of background on the author and the book (contextualize the book— e.g., groundbreaking book that offers a new paradigm of leadership called “servant leadership”).
    - Six to seven pages on the leadership philosophy and method of the book.
    - One to two page theological evaluation of the text: does the text draw explicitly

on theological foundations, ideas, and concepts? Even if it does not have an explicit theology, what are the implied/assumed theological presuppositions of the leadership theory and method?

b. Length: 6-7 pages.

c. Integration of class lectures and other readings (where relevant).

3. Oral presentation of your paper to the class.

This should be about fifteen to twenty minutes in length (thus an abbreviated version of the paper) followed by about ten minutes of class discussion.

**C. Theology of Leadership paper (DUE day of presentation):**

1. The purpose of this assignment is to give the student the opportunity to develop a theology of Christian leadership. The theology of leadership can focus on leadership within Christian ministry settings, but also can address broader theological concepts of leadership.

2. The assignment has a written and oral presentation component:

a. The written paper should be 10-12 pages and should develop a Christian theology of leadership.

● MA/PhD student paper length: 20-25 pages

b. The oral presentation introduces the class to the theology of leadership developed in the essay and will include approximately 20 minutes of presentation and 10 minutes of class discussion.

**D. Reading (DUE December 3):**

Reading assignments introduce students to documents of Christian theological reflection and facilitate attaining all of the learning objectives. You will submit a report that states the percentage of the reading completed on December 3.

● The professor may at times assign supplementary readings.

● MA/PhD students will select 5 books from the Leadership bibliography or other books on leadership and prepare an annotated bibliography for the five books. An annotation is a brief descriptive summary of the text. They should be one or two paragraphs and no more than one page (double spaced).

**VI. Lecture Outline (tentative):**

Day	Session	Topic	Due Dates and Presentations
<b>1</b>	<b>Sept 17</b>		
	<b>1</b> <b>9:00- Noon</b>	<p>Introduction to the Course</p> <p><b>I. Assessing Contemporary Approaches to Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Group discussion: What are the key issues and challenges for Christian leadership today?</li> </ul>	
	<b>2</b> <b>1:00- 4:00</b>	<p>A. Biblical Inspired Approaches to Leadership</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Batten and Howard, <i>The Leadership Principles of Jesus</i></li> <li>● Page, <i>The Nehemiah Factor</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Small group discussion of Biblical Leadership Essay</li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Oct 15</b>		
	<b>1</b> <b>9:00- Noon</b>	<p>B. Servant Leadership</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Greenleaf, <i>Servant Leadership</i></li> </ul> <p>C. Purpose Driven Leadership</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Warren, <i>The Purpose Driven Church</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Small group discussion of Leadership Evaluation Essay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Biblical Leadership Essay</li> </ul>
	<b>2</b> <b>1:00- 4:00</b>		<p><b>Leadership Evaluation Presentations</b></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p>

			<p>9. _____</p> <p>10. _____</p> <p>■ Leadership Evaluation Essay</p>
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3	Nov 5		
	<p><b>1</b> <b>9:00- Noon</b></p>	<p>E. Emergent Church Leadership Strategies</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sweet, <i>Aquachurch</i></li>   <li>● Keel's, <i>Intuitive Leadership: Embracing a Paradigm of Narrative, Metaphor, and Chaos</i></li> </ul> <p><b>II. Proposing a Theology of Leadership</b></p> <p>A. The Foundation of Leadership: The Mission of the Triune God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Small group discussion of Constructing a Theology of Leadership</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>2</b> <b>1:00- 4:00</b></p>	<p>B. The Nature of Leadership: The Missional Activity of the Triune God</p> <p>C. The Activity of Leadership: Participating in the Mission of the Triune God</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participating in God's Mission in the Church</li>   <li>2. Participating in God's Mission in the World</li> </ol>	

<b>4</b>	<b>Dec 3</b>		
	<b>1 9:00- Noon</b>		1. Presentation _____ 2. Presentation _____ 3. Presentation _____ 4. Presentation _____ 5. Presentation _____ 6. Presentation _____
	<b>2 1:00- 4:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conclusion</li> <li>● Course Evaluations</li> </ul>	7. Presentation _____ 8. Presentation _____ 9. Presentation _____ 10. Presentation _____  ■ Theology of Leadership Paper ■ Submit reading report

**VII. Policies:**

A. Textbook Purchase:

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College’s book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

B. Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one’s academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ [www.macdiv.ca/regs/honesty.php](http://www.macdiv.ca/regs/honesty.php).

C. Gender Inclusive Language:

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

**VIII. Late-Assignment and Exam Policy:**

- A. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the syllabus.
- B. Students take exams on the date and at the time scheduled in the syllabus.
- C. Late assignments are reduced five percentage points for each day late (e.g., if the grade is 90 and it is one day late, the grade will be reduced to 85).
- D. Assignments and exams will be accepted without penalty after the specified date in the syllabus **only** in the case of an excused absence. If a student misses an exam or assignment submission due to a reason that he/she believes is excusable, then he/she must notify the instructor and schedule an exam date and/or late-assignment submission date within twenty-four hours of the beginning of the missed class session.
- E. Assignments and exams will not be accepted late on the basis of the student's involvement with school-approved activities. If you are not able to be in class for an exam or assignment submission, then you must pre-arrange with the instructor to take the exam and/or submit the assignment before the scheduled date in the syllabus.  
**Please Note:** This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

**Leadership Bibliography**

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