



River City School of Leadership

Syllabus for **PRM 101 Biblical Concepts of Leadership**

Professor

Professor Name

Professor Email

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Leadership is one of the most written and talked about phenomenon on the planet and it is usually misunderstood. This course will examine concepts of leadership from a Biblical perspective, the structure of leadership within the context of the local church, certain theories of leadership, and practical tools that every leader should possess.

II. COURSE GOALS & OUTCOMES

A. Theological Framework

1. Discover and examine the role of a shepherd as a leader, particularly focusing on our ultimate leader, Jesus Christ.
2. Learn the unique structure of leadership prescribed for the early church and how it operated with an emphasis on five-fold ministry, government, and structure.
3. Discover Biblical principles governing leadership, it's role and its use within the Kingdom of God.

B. Leadership Theory

1. Examine Situational Leadership Theory and its implications within the church.
2. Examine the Servant Leadership Theory and its implications as a model of leadership.

C. Leadership Principles

1. Explore the stages of team development and essential tools for working with teams.
2. Discover the concepts of conflict resolution and why these are important in every functioning team.

D. Outcomes

1. To Develop the student's understanding of leadership
2. To Understand the application of leadership within a Biblical context
3. To employ effective leadership strategies and principles

III. TEXTBOOK(S)

Keller, W. Phillip. *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*. Zondervan, 2007.

Catmull, Ed. *Creativity, Inc.: Overcoming the Unseen Forces That Stand in the Way of True Inspiration*. Random House, 2014.

Blanchard, Ken. Hodges, Phil. *The Servant Leader: Transforming your heart, head, hands and habits*. Thomas Nelson, 2003.

IV. ASSIGNMENT & DUE DATES

A. Online Discussion (20%) Every Monday

On Tuesday each week, a class discussion question will be posted by the professor under the “Discussions” portion of the online class portal. Provide a six to eight sentence response to that question by Monday. Additionally, read and review the comments of your classmates. This weekly assignment is designed to facilitate an online dialogue that enables student to glean from one another.

B. Reading (10%) Throughout the semester for each class

The student must certify that they have read all materials at the end of the semester to receive full credit. The student should come to each class having read assigned materials and prepared to discuss related concepts.

C. Response Papers (40%) Two papers at 20% each

1. Response Paper #1: Review of *A Shepherd's Look at Psalm 23*, by W. Phillip Keller.

Write a review of *A Shepherd's Look at Psalm 23* and write a 750-word book response. Utilize MLA formatting when writing your essay. The response should be comprised of a 250-word summary of the text and 500-word response. When writing the response, the following questions may help you formulate your ideas.

- How do you agree or disagree with the author? Why?
- What insights were most helpful to you? How will you apply those insights to your life and ministry?
- What leadership principles did you discover in your readings?

- What principle would you most implement in your own leadership context and why?
2. Response Paper #2: Review of *The Servant Leader*, by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges.

Write a review of *The Servant Leader* and write a 750-word book response. Utilize MLA formatting when writing your essay. The response should be comprised of a 250-word summary of the text and 500-word insights, response, and application of the principles gleaned.

- Identify and discuss the principles of servant leadership.
- Discuss what makes a servant leader.
- Discuss how to apply concepts within your own personal context of ministry.
- Identify three Biblical examples of servant leadership.

Submit your essays in a Word or PDF document under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

D. Course Work (7%)

1. Participate and complete all in-class assignments.
2. Participate in all in-class discussions.

F. Biblical Leader Expository Essay (3%)

Select a Biblical Leader from the list provided and write a 250-word Expository Essay describing two leadership characteristics of the leader you selected.

Submit your essay in a Word or PDF document under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

E. Final Exam (20%)

The exam will be available online for a set number of days. You may complete the exam at your convenience during that time period. The exam is found under the “Quiz” section of the online portal. The exam is closed book. This means that, while taking the exam, you may not refer to any notes or study guides.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Grades and Assessments

1. Grading Scale

- A 90 - 100%
- B 80 - 89%
- C 70 - 79%
- D 60 - 69%
- F 59% and below

2. Percentage of Final Grade per Assessment & Due Date

- a) Online Discussion (20%) Every Monday
- b) Reading (10%) Throughout the semester for each class
- c) Response Papers (40%)
 - Paper #1 (20%)
 - Paper #2 (20%)
- d) Course Work (7%)
- e) Biblical Leader Expository Essay (3%)
- f) Final Exam (20%)

B. Correspondence

All correspondence with professors should be done through the email address provided in this syllabus.

Professor Name

Professor Email

C. Academic Honesty

1. Plagiarism is copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structures and submitting them as one's own. which is claiming the work of others as your own without specific acknowledgment. It is always required that a student cite resources used in any paper that is written. Both students and faculty at River City School of Leadership are expected to deal ethically with other's materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software.
2. Collaboration (e.g. writing a paper with someone else so that the resulting paper is not the product of the person turning it in) is not permitted unless specifically allowed by the instructor. Unless noted on the course syllabus a student should assume that the required work is meant to represent their own efforts. It is permissible to have a

proofreader review one's paper and comment on the grammar and general paper structure; however, the thought and content of the paper must be the student's.

D. Late Assignment Policy

For each week that an assignment is late, it will receive a 10% grade deduction. An assignment will be considered late unless the student has prior permission from the instructor for a later due date. No homework will be accepted after the end of the term. Additional points can be docked by the teacher for not meeting assignment requirements or standards.

Example:

1-7 Days Late	–	Maximum Grade 90
8-14 Days Late	–	Maximum Grade 80
15-21 Days Late	–	Maximum Grade 70
22-28 Days Late	–	Maximum Grade 60
29+ Days Late	–	Maximum Grade 59

E. Absenteeism

An absentee is defined as not being present in-person or online when a class is being taught. Students are allowed two absences in each semester. If a student is absent more than twice, they will be given an I (Incomplete) for the semester. An **absentee can be erased if a student watches the full video content** of a class that they missed, writes a 250-word response to the class video that was watched, and **send the notification and the response to River City by email (info@rivercityschool.com)** that they have made up the absence, noting the date of the absence. The latest a student can submit an email to this effect is the day following the last class of that semester.

F. Tardiness

When attending an online class via Zoom, if a student joins 10 minutes or later after the start of the class, a Tardy will be noted for that week's attendance.

G. Zoom Protocol

When attending a River City class that is held via Zoom, students are expected to adhere to the following protocol. The camera must be on the whole class and audio muted unless a question is being asked or answered. It is expected that students will be interactive in the class, answering or following the instructions given by the professor.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topic
1		Introduction and Overview of Biblical Concepts
2		Understanding Leadership and the Role of a Christian Leader
3		Examining Leadership Styles and Characteristics
4		Biblical Leaders
		(Expository Essay Due)
4		Heart of the Shepherd – A Shepherd’s view of Psalm 23
5		(Response Paper #1 – <i>A Shepherd’s Look at Psalm 23</i> Due)
		Leadership Theory Part 1: The Servant Leader
6		Leadership Theory Part 2: The Servant Leader
7		Leadership Theory Part 3: A Situational and Directional Leader
8		(Response Paper #2 – <i>The Servant Leader</i> Due)
		Leadership Functions/Structures of the Church – Part 1
9		Leadership Functions/Structures of the Church – Part 2
10		Exam

VII. CHANGES

This syllabus is subject to change. It is the responsibility of the student to note any revisions when released.