



River City School of Leadership

Syllabus for
LDR 102 Biblical Concepts of Leadership
Fall 2024

Professor
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Developing competent and effective leaders is critical to the success of any organization. Over the years, a plethora of books have been written, along with the creation of many informational videos, TED Talks, and podcasts on various aspects of leadership development. This course focuses on the greatest book written on leadership – the Bible. This course will address key leadership principles and characteristics from a biblical perspective, providing practical foundations for dynamic church leadership.

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 the five-fold ministry, government, and structure.
3. Discover biblical principles governing its leadership, its 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. Develop understanding of individual strengths using StrengthsFinder 2.0.
3. 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 to employ effective leadership strategies and principles.

III. TEXTBOOK(S)

Students are expected to have all required materials by the first day of the semester. If there is a delay in shipping or acquiring, please notify the professor.

Blanchard, Ken. Hodges, Phil. *The Servant Leader: Transforming your Heart, Head, hands & Habits*. Thomas Nelson, 2003.

Bailey, Boyd. *Learning to Lead like Jesus*. Harvest House Publishers, 2018.

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

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Being Leaders: The Nature of Authentic Christian Leadership*. Baker Books. 2003.

Rath, Tom. *StrengthsFinders 2.0*. Gallup Press, 2008.

Holy Bible, New International Version. Zondervan Publishing House, 1984.

IV. ASSIGNMENT & DUE DATES

A. Online Discussion (20%), Due dates listed below

A class discussion question will be posted by the professor under the "Discussions" portion of the online class portal on the following dates:

November 17th – Due September 24th

October 8th – Due October 15th

October 22nd – Due October 29th

November 12th – Due November 19th

The student will respond to the discussion question within 7 days of the posting date..

The student will provide a one paragraph (six to eight sentence) response to that question by the due date provided above. Additionally, read, review, and comment on at least two fellow classmates' comments. This weekly assignment is designed to facilitate an online dialogue that enables student to learn from one another.

B. StrengthsFinder Clifton Online Talent Assessment (10%), Tuesday, September 17th

Utilize the link in the StrengthsFinder 2.0 book to take the Assessment. Save your results as a Word or PDF document and upload under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

C. StrengthsFinder Personal Assessment Review (15%), Tuesday, October 8th

Review the results of your StrengthsFinder Assessment and, on a Word document, answer the questions listed below. Submit as a Word or PDF document under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

1. List your top five strengths
2. Reference the StrengthsFinder 2.0 book, and list two ideas for action for each of your five strengths that will help you develop and use the strength more effectively in the future.
3. Summarize how you will use your top five strengths to work with others.
4. How might you develop those gifts to be used more effectively in your life?

D. Classroom Participation (10%)

Students will actively participate in classroom discussion during scheduled class time each week.

E. Response Paper (20%), Tuesday, November 26th

Review of *The Servant Leader*, by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges. Write a 750-word analytical response answering the questions listed below to formulate your ideas and the overall development of your paper. Use MLA formatting when writing your response paper. Submit as a Word or PDF document under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

1. Identify and discuss the principles of servant leadership.
2. Discuss how to apply the concepts of servant leadership within your own personal context of ministry/word.
3. Identify the five habits/disciplines that are an integral part of what Jesus practiced during his earthly walk and how they will help you become a better leader.

F. Final Exam (25%), Tuesday, December 10th

The exam will be available from Tuesday, December 3rd to Tuesday, December 10th (11:59PM EST). Please complete the exam at your convenience anytime during that seven-day posting period. Once the exam is started, the student will have up to two hours to complete the exam. The exam is found under the “Quiz” section of the online portal. A student guide will be provided on the slide deck to prepare for the exam. Textbooks and other book resources may not be used during the exam.

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 (all due by 11:59PM of the date listed)

- a) Online Discussion (25%), September 24th, October 15th, October 29th, November 19th
- b) StrengthsFinder Clifton Online Talent Assessment (10%), Tuesday, September 17th
- c) StrengthsFinder Personal Assessment Review (15%), Tuesday, October 8th
- d) Classroom Participation (10%)
- e) Response Paper (20%), Tuesday, November 26th
- f) Final Exam (25%), Friday, December 10th

B. Correspondence

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

Pastor Joette Lehberger
joette.lehberger@rivercityschool.com

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 to miss a **maximum** of three absences total per course in each semester. If a student misses more than three classes, they will be given an "I" (Incomplete) for the course. These three absences can be made up if a student watches/listens to the full video/audio content of a class that they missed, writes a 250-word response to the class video that was watched/listened to, and sends 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.

H. Recorded Class Protocol

There are times when a professor might need to record a class meeting for students to view instead of meeting on the designated class night. If this does occur, in order for a student to be counted as present for that class week, the class recording will need to be viewed and then an email sent to info@rivercityschool.com notifying that the recording has been watched. No written response is needed.

VII. COURSE CONTENT / SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	CLASS TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE
1	Sept 10 th	Intro Overview	
2	Sept 17 th	Understanding Leadership/Role of the Christian Leader	Online Talent Assignment
3	Sept 24 th	Developing Leadership Strengths – StrengthsFinder	Online Discussion
4	Oct 1 st	Examining Leadership Styles/Characteristics	
5	Oct 8 th	Biblical Leaders	Personal Assessment Review
6	Oct 15 th	Heart of the Shepherd/Psalm 23	Online Discussion
7	Oct 22 nd	Leadership Theory Part 1: The Servant Leader	

8	Oct 29 th	Leadership Theory Part 2: The Servant Leader	Online Discussion
9	Nov 5 th	Leadership Theory Part 3: Situational/Directional Leader	
10	Nov 12 th	Leadership Functions/Structures of the Church Part 1	
11	Nov 19 th	Leadership Functions/Structures of the Church Part 2	Online Discussion
	Nov 26 th	Break	Response Paper
12	Dec 3 rd	Using what we learned – Case Studies and Exam Review; Exam Open	
	Dec 10 th		Exam Due

VIII. CHANGES

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