

TH 3XT3/6XT6 Theology of Leadership

McMaster Divinity College
Fall 2014
Mon 7:00-9:00pm

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and by appointment

Specializations: Christianity and Culture, Christian Thought and History, Christian Worldview, Pastoral Studies

I. Description:

This course explores contemporary approaches to Christian leadership and proposes a theology of leadership as participation in the mission of the Triune God. The course evaluates the explicit and implicit theological assumptions of contemporary views on Christian leadership. It considers ways that biblical leaders, such as Jesus and Paul, can guide today's Christian leaders. 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 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 an 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 select texts in contemporary Christian leadership.

III. Required Text(s):

1. Efrain Agosto, *Servant Leadership: Jesus and Paul* (St. Louis: Chalice, 2005).
2. Students select a book in contemporary Christian leadership theory; this book can be used for the Leadership Assessment Essay.

IV. Course Performance Criteria:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Due</u>
A. Biblical Leadership Essay:	30%	Sept 29
B. Leadership Assessment Essay:	20%	Oct 20
C. Theology of Leadership Paper:	50%	Nov 17
D. Participation:	<u>X</u>	
	Total: 100%	

V. Assignment Descriptions:

General Guidelines:

- Electronic copies in MS Word or Apple Pages preferred. Please use last name and name of assignment for the file name—e.g., Johnson.Biblical Leadership Essay.docx/doc. *Papers not submitted in this format will be returned to the student unmarked.*

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, 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 papers and assignments should conform to the MDC Style Guide found on the website.
- MA and PhD students see appendix 1 for course requirements.

A. Biblical Leadership Essay:

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. Assesses 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:

- 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 Assessment Essay:

1. Select one Christian leadership text (see the leadership bibliography and/or 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).

C. Theology of Leadership Paper:

1. This assignment gives you the opportunity to develop a theology of Christian leadership. This theology of leadership can focus on leadership within Christian ministry settings, but also can address broader theological concepts of leadership. It can draw from biblical, historical, and systematic theology as well as resources from other disciplines. I encourage students to write a paper that fits their interests and current or anticipated venues of leadership.
2. The written paper should be 10-12 pages and should develop a Christian theology of leadership.
3. The paper includes an informal, short class presentation (PowerPoint, etc. is not necessary). Depending on the size of the class, the presentation will be approximately ten minutes. Toward the end of the semester, the class will begin with several presentations. with question and discussion following the presentations.

VI. Lecture Outline (*tentative*):

Week	Date	Topic	Group Discussions and Presentations
1	Sept 8	Introduction to the Course	
2	Sept 15	I. Assessing Contemporary Approaches to Leadership A. The Divine Image and Giftedness ● Case study: Tubby & Slim from William Manchester, <i>Goodbye Darkness</i>	Discussion: ● What are the key issues and challenges for Christian leadership today? ● What is a theology of leadership?
3	Sept 22	B. The Assumptions of Leadership Robert Dale, <i>Leading Edge</i> and Henderson, "Origin of Strategy"	● Discussion of Biblical Leadership Essay
4	Sept 29	C. Servant Leadership	

		Efrain Agosto, <i>Servant Leadership: Jesus and Paul</i> *Biblical leadership essay due	
5	Oct 6	C. Servant Leadership & Agosto continued	Leadership Evaluation Presentations 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
6	Oct 13	No class—Thanksgiving	4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____
7	Oct 20	D. Emergent Church Leadership Strategies 1. Scott Cormode, <i>Making Spiritual Sense</i> 2. Intuitive Leadership—Keel’s, <i>Intuitive Leadership: Embracing a Paradigm of Narrative, Metaphor, and Chaos</i> *Leadership assessment essay due	
8	Oct 27	Guest Presentation: Brian Craig, CBOQ Director of Leadership Development	
9	Nov 3	II. Profiles in Theological Leadership A. Jesus and Paul B. Augustine C. Luther	
10	Nov 10	D. Karl Barth	

		E. Pope John Paul II F. Lesslie Newbigin	
11	Nov 17	II. Proposing a Theology of Leadership A. The Foundation of Leadership: The Mission of the Triune God B. The Nature of Leadership: The Missional Activity of the Triune God <i>*Theology of leadership essay due</i>	Paper presentations and discussions (first 30 minutes of class)
12	Nov 24	C. The Activity of Leadership: Participating in the Mission of the Triune God 1. Participating in God's Mission in the Church 2. Participating in God's Mission in the World	Paper presentations and discussions (first 30 minutes of class)
13	Dec 1	Conclusion and Assessment ● Course evaluations	Paper presentations and discussions (first 30 minutes of class)
14	Dec 8	Exam Week	

VII. Policies:

A. Textbook Purchase:

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, 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; email 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 ~ asterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations

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.

Appendix 1: Research Degree Requirements

I. Assignment Outline:

Assignment	Percent	Due Date
A. Biblical Leadership Essay:	15%	Sept 29
B. Lecture and Discussion	35%	Day of presentation
C. Thesis Paper and Presentation	50%	Paper due one week after presentation
1. Presentation (15%)		
2. Paper (35%)		
D. Participation:	X	Mon 7:00–9:00pm
	Total: 100%	

II. Assignment Descriptions:

A. Biblical Leadership Essay:

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 in your example.
 - b. Assesses the contextual and transcendental nature of the leadership paradigm or method employed by the biblical character/s.

Questions to consider for the assessment of the leadership paradigm:

- 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: 10–12 pages.

B. Thesis Paper and Presentation:

1. Description:

You will select a topic related to pneumatology and write a thesis paper on it. Your paper can deal with any area of pneumatology (e.g., biblical, historical, contemporary, and contextual theology). If you have questions on a suitable topic, please talk to me.

2. Purpose:

This assignment gives you experience writing article, essay, and chapter length theological papers presenting research in an oral form similar to that performed at academic conferences.

3. Guidelines:

- a. Write a stylistically clean and academic paper—e.g., you should avoid first person discourse, colloquialisms (academic is different than conversational voice), passive voice (use active).
- b. Use and document a *minimum* of fifteen scholarly resources.
- c. Accurately document sources according to the MDC Style Guide.
- d. Paper length: 20–25 pages. No more than 7,000 words.
- e. Provide a bibliography (list only the books cited in the footnotes of the paper).

C. Lecture and Discussion:

1. Description:

You will present a lecture on one of the topics listed in the course outline (or an approved alternative topic). Lecture topic and major paper topics can be coordinated.

2. Purpose:

The purpose of this assignment is to give students experience with developing and presenting lectures. The benefit of taking a 3/6 course is that your lecture will be for MDiv and MTS students rather than only other doctoral students, giving your lecture a more realistic audience.

3. Guidelines:

a. Research:

- 1) Research for the lecture will account for the supplemental reading for advanced degree students (approximately 5,000-6,000 pages)
- 2) Documentation of reading:

Please provide an annotated bibliography of the reading consulted in the preparation of the lecture (the annotations for the texts should be about one paragraph—identify the key thesis and contributions of the text).

b. Lecture:

- 1) The lecture should present and discuss the primary content points of the topic (or sub-topic)
- 2) Lecture handouts/outlines and PowerPoint/Prezi are helpful, but not required
- 3) Length:
The lecture and discussion will take the first fifty-minute period of the course.

b. Evaluation:

Grading of the lecture and discussion session will be based on the following:

- 1) Please submit to the professor a copy (electronic or hard copy) of your lecture notes and the annotated bibliography used to develop the lecture.
- 2) Does the lecture accurately present and discuss the topic?
- 3) Does the lecture engage in critical evaluation/discussion of the content?
- 4) Does the lecture highlight the transcendent value of the material—e.g., does it have value for contemporary Christian thought, life, and ministry?
- 5) Does the lecture facilitate student discussion?

Leadership Bibliography

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