

TH 3XT3/6XT6 Theology of Leadership

McMaster Divinity College
Fall 2016
Hybrid
Campus session Oct 11–12

Steven M. Studebaker, M.A., Ph.D.
Phone: 905.525.9140 ext. 20097
Email: studeba@mcmaster.ca
Office Hours: Mon 3:00-5:00; Tues 1:00-3:00
and by appointment

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.

A. Specializations:

Church and Culture
Christian Thought & History
Pastoral Studies

B. Doctor of Practical Theology:

Doctor of Practical Theology students who wish to apply for this course as an Advanced Elective for their degree program must consult with the Program Director of the DPT and the course instructor in order to develop an Advanced Elective approach to the course that fulfills the specific elements required by the DPT program. Once the elements of the Advanced Elective have been agreed upon by the student, the Program Director, and the instructor, a formal application can be made for an Advanced Elective in connection with this course. Once the application is accepted, DPT students can proceed with the course as part of their degree program.

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%	Oct 3
B. Leadership Assessment Essay:	20%	Oct 24
C. Theology of Leadership Paper:	50%	Nov 21
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.*
- 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.

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.
- d. Use scholarly resources for understanding the context and meaning of the passage.

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:

This assignment constitutes the “major paper” and presentation of the course. The purpose of the paper/project is vocational development. It should advance your vocational trajectory. Selecting whether to prepare a project or a paper is an important step in the process. If you anticipate further graduate work or writing a thesis as part of your MTS or MDiv, then an academic research-thesis paper is an excellent option. A research-thesis paper provides skill development in conducting the concentrated study on a particular research topic necessary for advanced academic work. If your vocational track is vocational ministry or an alternative professional field, then a project may be an effective option. Completing a project provides skill development in contextualizing and applying the fruit of theological research and reflection.

If you have an idea for a paper or creative project that does not neatly fit into the parameters of the assignment, please come and discuss your idea with me. I am open to papers/projects that cohere with the essence of the course and are suited to your research field and interests.

◆ Please consult the assignment description for your degree specialization ◆

Christianity and Culture

1. Description:
Investigating the interface between leadership and culture is the purpose of this assignment. The paper/project provides the opportunity to explore the relationship between a theology of leadership and culture. Options are open based on your vocational/academic goals. Your goal is to explore an approach to leadership (church or non-church based) that shows how cultural context shapes the approach to/style of leadership.

Example topics: How does church leadership reflect corporate values and assumptions about leadership? Alternatively, explore a particular church or movement that endeavors to embody a counter cultural approach to leadership. How do attractional approaches to church leadership reflect consumer marketing values? How does a popular approach to corporate leadership reflect and/or not reflect biblical values and approaches to leadership?

2. Length and style expectations:
 - a. Class Presentation: During the first day of the class, you will have an opportunity to present your preliminary work on the paper/project. You do not need to submit a paper at this time. The presentation provides the opportunity to share your research to this point with the class and receive constructive feedback that you can incorporate into your ongoing work on the project.
 - b. Length: 11–13 double-spaced pages, 12 point Times New Roman font.
 - c. Research resources:
 - 1) Use and document at least 10 scholarly resources (e.g., scholarly monographs, journal articles, and essays).
 - 2) Document sources with footnotes and follow the MacDiv Style Guide.
 - d. Structure: the paper should reflect a clear and thoughtful structure that introduces the topic and thesis and then convincingly demonstrates and/or supports the thesis of the paper.

Christian History and Thought

1. Description:

This assignment provides students with the opportunity to explore an issue in or related to leadership in the history of the church. The topic can come arise from the history or contemporary life of the church. The paper/project can also focus on events or the theological assumptions of an approach to leadership.

Example topics: Discuss and evaluate a key leadership crisis in the history of the church—e.g., the investiture controversy and the split that led to the Avignon papacy; Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Karl Barth and the formation of the Confessing Church in opposition to the German Christian church. What are the theological assumptions of egalitarian approaches to leadership? Considering Thomas Aquinas’ hierarchical view of being and its consequences for leadership and social organization is an example of a more intellectual/theoretical approach—e.g., history of ideas rather than events.

2. Length and style expectations:

- a. Class Presentation: During the first day of the class, you will have an opportunity to present your preliminary work on the paper/project. You do not need to submit a paper at this time. The presentation provides the opportunity to share your research to this point with the class and receive constructive feedback that you can incorporate into your ongoing work on the project.
- b. Length: 11–13 double-spaced pages, 12 point Times New Roman font.
- c. Research resources:
 - 1) Use and document at least 10 scholarly resources (e.g., scholarly monographs, journal articles, and essays).
 - 2) Document sources with footnotes and follow the MacDiv Style Guide.
- d. Structure: The paper should reflect a clear and thoughtful structure that introduces the topic and thesis and then convincingly demonstrates and/or supports the thesis of the paper.

Pastoral Studies

1. Description:

Prepare a sermon, message, training seminar appropriate for a given ministry audience that outlines a theology of leadership. The content of the sermon/message/seminar draws from theological resources, but expresses the yield of that theology in language and terms that are appropriate for a ministry audience. If you have an idea for contextualizing a theology of leadership not mentioned above, please talk with me so we can design a project that enables you to maximize your work in the class for your ministry context and that meets the goals of the specialization in Pastoral Studies.

Example topics: A seminar could develop the theological basis and practices for egalitarian and non-hierarchical leadership styles increasingly popular in new church ('emerging') groups. A sermon could outline theological principles and practices for leadership, which are applied to the life circumstances of parishioners—e.g., how do theological principles of leadership help Christians leaders in their professional business activities.
2. Length and style expectations:
 - a. Class Presentation: During the first day of the class, you will have an opportunity to present your preliminary work on the paper/project. You do not need to submit a paper at this time. The presentation provides the opportunity to share your research to this point with the class and receive constructive feedback that you can incorporate into your ongoing work on the project.

- b. Written submission:
- 1) Annotated bibliography of research sources: An annotation is a paragraph or two that describes the content of the book, essay, or article and how it relates to your research project.
 - 2) Sermon/message/seminar: Submit a manuscript of your sermon/message. The text does not need to be verbatim, but it should be a detailed outline with annotations that indicate the content of the sermon/message/seminary.
 - 3) Double-spaced pages, 12 point Times New Roman font.
- c. Research resources:
- 1) Use and document at least 10 scholarly resources (e.g., scholarly monographs, journal articles, and essays).
 - 2) Document sources with footnotes and follow the MacDiv Style Guide.

VI. Lecture Outline (*tentative*):

Part One: Online			
Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	Sept 12	Introduction to the Course • Post on Avenue to Learn: Discuss what you think are the key issues and challenges for Christian leadership today?	Agosto, <i>Servant Leadership</i> , Introduction and ch. 1.
2	Sept 19	I. Assessing Contemporary Approaches to Leadership A. The Divine Image and Giftedness • Post on Avenue to Learn: Share with your colleagues the biblical passage/figure that is the focus of biblical leadership essay. Be sure to contribute helpful insights to your colleagues' posts.	Agosto, <i>Servant Leadership</i> , chs. 2–3

3	Sept 26	<p>B. Culture and Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on Avenue to Learn: Share a challenge you have faced as a leader and how biblical and theological considerations helped you navigate the challenge. 	Agosto, <i>Servant Leadership</i> , chs. 4–5
4	Oct 3	<p>C. Servant Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on Avenue to Learn: Identify one or two insights from Agosto’s book that you found helpful and/or challenging for Christian leadership. 	<p>Agosto, <i>Servant Leadership</i>, chs. 6 & conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biblical leadership essay due</i>

Part Two: Campus Sessions Oct 11–12

5 Oct 11	9:00- Noon	<p>D. Emergent Church Leadership Strategies E.g., Scott Cormode, <i>Making Spiritual Sense</i></p> <p>II. Proposing a Theology of Leadership A. The Foundation of Leadership: The Mission of the Triune God:</p>	
	Noon- 1:00	Lunch	
	1:00- 4:00	<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"> 1. Participating in God’s Mission in the Church 2. Participating in God’s Mission in the World 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Project Presentation & Discussions
5 Oct 12	9:00- 1:00	<p>2. Cont.</p> <p>Guest Presentation: Brian Craig, CBOQ Director of Leadership Development</p>	

Part Three: Online

6	Oct 17	<p>II. Profiles in Theological Leadership A. Jesus and Paul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on Avenue to Learn: Share with your class colleagues a reflection from the campus session that you helped/challenged you in your development of a theology of leadership. 	
7	Oct 24	<p>B. Augustine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on Avenue to Learn: Briefly describe and assess the figure of the text you used for the leadership assessment essay. What were its key insights and how were they/or not helpful? 	• <i>Leadership assessment essay due</i>
8	Oct 31	<p>C. Luther</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on Avenue to Learn 1) Post a summary of your leadership paper/project and why it is important to you and 2) Contribute insight, advice, a resource for class member's paper/project. 	
9	Nov 7	<p>D. Karl Barth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on Avenue to Learn: Post an update on your major paper/project. 1) Identify a key that still needs work 2) Make a contribution that can help one of your colleagues move ahead on the area he/she identified as needing work. 	
10	Nov 14	<p>E. Pope John Paul II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on Avenue to Learn: Discuss something that you found challenging/helpful from the profiles in leadership. 	
11	Nov 21	<p>F. Lesslie Newbigin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on Avenue to Learn: Post a reflection on the course of the semester that identifies several theological categories for leadership and how you can integrate them into your life and ministry. 	• <i>Leadership Paper/Project due</i>
12	Nov 28	<p>Conclusion and Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Evaluations 	

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 Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3 : 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 <https://www.mcmasterdivinity.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.
- D. Style:
All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses
<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>
Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.
- E. Disclaimer:
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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