

PT653 Leadership Here and Now:

Advanced Leadership Skills and Practice

Spring 2017

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Course Location: TBD

Course Time: Feb 3, 10 – 3:30; Feb 4, 10 – 3:30;; Feb 6, 9 – noon; Mar 20, 9 - noon

Purpose and Content

You are equipping yourself in faith for vocations in and beyond congregations - vocations of love, service, sacrament, reconciliation and compassion. The effective leader has advanced skills in understanding, navigating and working within complex communities. Building on and advancing the skills acquired in the Leadership Studio (PT651/652), this course examines fundamental issues of leadership through the *practice* of self-reflection and group process.

This course is required for all MA-PPL and MDiv students. The Leadership Studio (PT651/652) is normally a pre-requisite for this course for MDiv and part-time MA-PPL students. Fulltime MA-PPL students (and others with permission of an instructor) may register for this course in conjunction with the Studio.

Competencies

Students meeting the course competencies will grow in their capacity for effective leadership in congregations and faith-based communities.

Become more effective self-reflective leaders:

- Deepen self-awareness and assess the impact of leadership choices on group health
- Gain increased self-awareness of ways participation and leadership help or hinder effectiveness of a group
- Improve clear verbal and non-verbal communication
- Develop ability to plan, lead and evaluate a variety of group experiences
- Increase practical and theoretical knowledge of group dynamics
- Gain clarity about one's own spiritual framework, including articulating assumptions, principles and practices related to this framework
- Learn about and use practical and theoretical tools to increase effective group leadership
 - Be able to apply theoretical models to lived experience of group process
 - Be equipped to analyse group experience and consider options for improving health and effectiveness of congregational groups in which they participate
- Audit their current group leadership competencies
- Develop a learning plan for increasing effective leadership capacity

Format and Evaluation

This course is designed for education through reflective practice. Students meet together for 12 hours in an intensive Feb 3 – 6, and then again for a final wrap up March 20 for three hours. The style of learning will include reflection, lecture, discussion, and leadership practice. Expectations, preparatory and follow-up assignments are listed below.

This course is designed for education through reflective practice and experience. The course plan is based on a generative curriculum model, where content will arise from the experience of the group as a cohort as well as from the pre-determined course outline.

Students will be evaluated on:

- Their engagement during class sessions especially demonstrating their readiness to participate fully, to be fully present to others in the cohort as well as to their own learning and process.
- Their competence in using skills introduced in the course, and timely completion of assignments.
- Each student will be required to complete a thorough self-assessment prior to final grading.

The course itself will be graded on an “Approved/Not Approved” basis. Assessment will be based in large part on class participation, active practice and application of tools, skills, and theories provided.

Attendance

Attendance is specified by VST requirements, which requires 100% attendance for intensive courses.

All assignments and the final evaluation for this course will be graded on an “Approved/Not Approved” basis.

Every assignment in this course must receive “Approved” in order to pass the course.

Policy on Late assignments

Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus for each course. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment.

Pre-course assignments (due Jan 18)

1. Read Chapter 1 of **Leadership and the New Science** – Margaret Wheatley
2. 1 – 2 page Group Observation

Choose a group in which you are currently a member (not designated leader). The group could be church related, or not – book club, Outreach committee, Strata council, etc. Attend an upcoming meeting and pay close attention during the gathering. Write a 1 – 2 page description of what you observe. Focus on observation and description, not evaluation. Do not include any names of participants, or personal content shared by group members in this meeting.

Two copies of this assignment must be brought to the first class.

Assignments between classes

1. Between the class sessions students will be required to keep a leadership journal. Specific requirements of the journal will be introduced at the first class.
2. Between the class sessions additional reading will be assigned.
3. A major project will be due at the final class.

Final Course Project (due March 20)

Details about the final project will be available during the first week of the class in February.

Leadership, Group Process, Facilitation:

Required:

Bens, Ingrid, *Facilitation at a Glance: Your Pocket Guide to Facilitation*, GOAL/QPC 2012 (3rd ed)

Wheatley, Margaret J. *Leadership And The New Science: Discovering Order In A Chaotic World* (3rd ed.) Berrett-Koehler 2006

Recommended:

Baldwin, Christina, *Storycatcher: Making Sense of our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story* New World Library 2007

Block, Peter, *Community: The Structure of Belonging*, Berrett-Koehler 2008

Daloz Parks, Sharon, *Leadership Can Be Taught*, Harvard Business Press 2005

Johnson, David and Frank Johnson, *Joining Together: Group Theory and Group Skills*, Pearson 2012 (11th ed.)

Palmer, Parker, *Let Your Life Speak*, Jossey-Bass 1999

Kaner, Sam *Facilitator's Guide to Participatory Decision-Making* with Michael Doyle, Lenny Lind, Catherine Told, Sarah Fisk, Duane Berger Jossey-Bass 2007

Parks Daloz, Laurent A., Sharon Daloz Parks, Cheryl H. Keen, and James P. Keen, *Common Fire, Lives of Commitment in a Complex World* Beacon Press, 1996.

Scott, Susan *Fierce Conversations*. Berkeley 2004

Senge, Peter, M., [*The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of The Learning Organization*](#) Crown Business 1994

Wheatley, Margaret J. *Finding Our Way: Leadership for an Uncertain Time* Berrett-Koehler 2005

