

PT 611: Leadership Skills for Community Ministry—Course Description

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Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide students with concrete and theologically-grounded tools for project development. With their Capstone Projects as their primary vehicle, PT 611 students will learn to do social research, project design, implementation, and evaluation. They will do this in a way that *integrates* spiritual practices and theological reflection with their project development work.

Outcomes

- Development of the skills necessary for a successful and edifying Capstone Project, skills that will help bridge their VST education and their work in the world
- Experience of the practice of *integration*: leadership informed by the “braid” of spiritual practices, theological reflection, and project development skills
- Submission of their Capstone proposals

Competence Objectives

1. Spiritual Practices: Engage in regular spiritual practices and discuss its effect on your leadership
2. Project Development: Demonstrate familiarity and skill with methods of project development, including:
 - Designing, implementing, and evaluating projects/programs
 - Assessing community resources, needs, problems, and goals
 - Conducting ethical social research*
 - Developing participatory leadership through meaningful community engagement
 - Writing proposals

*All students must show evidence of having completed a 3-hour Research Module in Social Ethics, either at VST or online from the Tri-Council Panel on Research Ethics.
3. Integration: Demonstrate the ability to integrate spiritual practices and theological reflection with your project development work
4. Professionalism: Demonstrate ability to submit assignments on time and according to academic standards of writing
5. Openness: Demonstrate a willingness to engage with new ideas, practice self-reflection and self-evaluation, and support your fellow students’ learning

Course Format and Levels

- 5 classroom sessions of 3 hours each
- Teaching Style: Lectures, group processes, and coaching, based on students’ readings, spiritual practices, and community experience
- Class Dates: Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 16, Oct. 29, Nov. 19 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (**Note: These are all Monday mornings EXCEPT for Tuesday October 16th**)
- Most students will take PT 611 to fulfill requirements of a Basic Degree such as MDIV, MATS, MA-PPL, or MA-IIS. Others may consult the Registrar.

- Pre-requisites: PT 500, 501, and 502.

Assignments and Evaluation

Students will be invited to engage deeply with the readings, presentations, class work, tools, and their chosen spiritual practices. They will be required to show evidence of their engagement in short reflective writings, Moodle posts, journal entries, and their formal MA-PPL Capstone Project proposal—10-12 pages of writing in all. Students are required to engage in and log a regular spiritual practice.

The course will be graded on an “Approved/Not Approved” basis.

Required Text—available at UBC bookstore

Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World
Alexia Salvatierra and Peter Heltzel, InterVarsity Press, 2014

Required Readings will include selections from:

Block, Peter. “Civic Engagement and the Restoration of Community: Changing the Nature of the Conversation,” 2005.

Corrigan, Chris; Art of Hosting. “The Chaordic Stepping Stones.”

Liberating Structures. <http://www.liberatingstructures.com/>

Dudley, Carl S. *Community Ministry: New Challenges, Proven Steps to Faith-Based Initiatives*, 2002.

Holman, Peggy, Tom Devane, Steven Cady. *The Change Handbook: The Definitive Resource on Today’s Best Methods for Engaging Whole Systems*, 2nd ed., 2007.

Jacobsen, Dennis A. *Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing*, 2001.

Salvatierra, Alexia and Peter Heltzel. *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World*, 2014.

Working Group for Community Health and Development, University of Kansas. *Community Tool Box*. <ctb.ku.edu>.

Additional shorter readings will be assigned.

Recommended Readings

Block, Peter. *Community: The Structure of Belonging*, 2009.

Cooperrider, David and Diana Whitney. *Appreciative Inquiry: A Positive Revolution in Change*, 2005.

Kretzmann, John P and John McKnight, The Institute for Asset-Based Community Development. *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community’s Assets*, 1993.

Scharmer, C. Otto. *Theory U: Leading from the Future as it Emerges*, 2007.

Sensing, Tim. *Qualitative Research: A Multi-Methods Approach to Projects for Doctor of Ministry Theses*, 2011.