

**PT 652: Pastoral and Public Studio for Strategic Leadership**  
**“The Studio”**  
**Spring 2024**

**Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Steven Chambers  
Sessional Lecturer - Theological Field Education  
Vancouver School of Theology  
Email: [schambers@vst.edu](mailto:schambers@vst.edu) Phone/Text: 778-968-7273

**NOTE:** My office is located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which is in Atlantic Time (Vancouver time + 4 hours). Please allow for a few extra hours for me to respond to your messages. Appointments on Zoom can be arranged by email or text.

**Purpose:** *PT 652 follows PT651 (Fall) and is its required completion.* Together these two courses, and the field work that goes alongside them, fulfill two units of Theological Field Education (*TFE – Leadership in Practice*).

Theologically trained professionals serving congregational or social ministries, agencies, organizations and other institutions are continually presented with a changing context and the need for their organizations to respond. A key critical leadership challenge is to identify opportunities which are truly strategic and then to assist the organization to embrace the occasion.

*The Studio* for Strategic Leadership (*The Studio-PT651/PT652*) is designed to be a crucible into which we bring ourselves – our gifts, hopes, vulnerabilities, strengths, weaknesses, uncertainties, experience – so that we may become transformed, effective leaders. It is a different kind of classroom. We will consider this question, among others: ‘How can we act from the future that is seeking to emerge?’ (Scharmer) as we also seek to engage the *missio Dei* (“the good news that God is a God-for-people”, Bosch).

Here there will be an opportunity for those preparing for pastoral and public leadership to combine instruction in leadership theory and theology with on-the-ground experience of discerning and developing leadership challenges and ministry opportunities. Alongside *The Studio*, students will be located in a ministry/leadership site, with a mentor/supervisor, where they will engage in a collaborative, creative, experiential and educational environment. A broad range of partners in church and society may become involved in the project, thus presenting learning opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. In all cases, we will understand the leadership opportunity to be one of serving the community in a specific context. *The Studio* mentors and instructors will assist the students to research, prepare, exercise and evaluate their leadership in the context in which they are situated. Students will normally continue in the same placement as Fall Term.

**Students in *The Studio* will:**

- Be introduced to key concepts in pastoral and public leadership and mentored in the practices of leadership
- Practice peer learning, support and accountability

- Reflect critically and constructively on all aspects of *The Studio* team's work: interpersonal relationships, analysis, planning, consulting, delivery, and evaluation of effectiveness of leadership offered
- Reflect theologically on the exercise of leadership in context

**Prerequisites:** Students will have successfully completed all assignments for PT651 before entering PT652.

### Competencies Related to Course

#### 1. Knowledge and practice in:

- a) *Fundamental leadership skills* such as listening, storytelling, communication, providing feedback and the assessment of context and people.
  - b) *Essential leadership functions* including the development, participation in and leadership of a team, the ability to work collaboratively, to problem-solve, to plan, implement and evaluate progress toward a goal or project to exercise conflict-management effectively, to develop and deliver effective presentations, to make tough choices and to assess the relationship of one's own gifts and calling to a particular project.
2. The *critical self-knowledge*, emotional and spiritual maturity necessary for effective leadership, including reflection upon one's expression of key character attributes such as authenticity, integrity, courage, humility, and service.
  3. Ability to appropriately *reflect on and communicate theological insights* and wisdom across sectors in collaborative pastoral and public settings. Ability to 'read' and 'participate' in the story of God.
  4. The ability to conduct *contextual/critical analysis* to inform/guide exercise of adaptive leadership including executing of goals and direction arising from peer discussion on leadership situations, critical incidents and/or leadership situation reports.
  5. The ability to articulate and follow *an ethical and theological framework* for decision-making and action.

### Course Organization

The course is built on two interconnected arenas for learning:

1. **Field Site – TFE Leadership in Practice:** Students will continue to be engaged in a leadership practicum for 8-12 hours per week of the term (excluding Reading Week). The practicum will be in a site with a mentor, both of which will have been approved by the Director of Theological Field Education.
2. **The Studio:** Students will meet in *The Studio* (PT652) on Mondays, 9am-12pm (PT) on these scheduled dates in 2024: January 15 & 29; February 12; March 4 & 18; April 8 (**NOTE:** This will be a joint session with students in PT505 to respond to their *TFE – Leadership in Practice* Presentations. Time will be determined based on the number of presentations.) On-line access to the instructor will supplement in-class instruction.

## Course Expectations and Assignments

*These will be more fully described in the syllabus.*

1. Be physically, emotionally, spiritually and intellectually present for *The Studio* session and with other studio participants.
2. Students will be expected to work in small groups at various points in the course. In these groups students will reflect with others on leadership situations and provide feedback to others.
3. Evaluation will be based on a mix of oral and written presentations.

## Required Texts

*Specific readings will be noted on the syllabus. Other shorter readings will be made available on Canvas. **Studio texts have not been pre-ordered at the UBC Bookstore, although some may be available there. Students are advised to purchase online, from former students, or access library reserve.***

Tod Bolsinger, *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change*. InterVarsity Press, 2020.

Patrick Lencioni, *Overcoming the Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Field Guide for Leaders, Managers and Facilitators*. Jossey-Bass, 2005.

Sara Miles, *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2007.

Susan Scott, *Fierce Conversations: Achieving Success at Work and in Life, One Conversation at a Time*. Berkley Books, 2004 [2002]

Beth Ann Estock and Paul Nixon, *Weird Church: Welcome to the Twenty-first Century*. Pilgrim Press, 2016.

## Reference Texts

*Some shorter readings may be assigned from these texts.*

Dave Gibbons, *the monkey and the fish: Liquid Leadership for a Third-Culture Church*. Zondervan, 2009.

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

Ronal A. Heifetz, *Leadership Without Easy Answers*, Belknap, 1994.

C. Otto Scharmer, *Theory U: Leading from the Future as It Emerges*. Berrett-Koehler, 2009.