

**Wesley Theological Seminary
Doctor of Ministry Program**

Images of Leadership in the Bible

DM – L602 Images of Leadership in the Bible January 4-8, 2016

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Course Description: an exploration of selected biblical texts (in Exodus, 1 and 2 Samuel, prophets, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Galatians, Philemon, Romans, psalm laments, Job); themes (shepherding, trust, confrontation, team work, criticizing/energizing); and leaders (Moses, David, Paul) for perspectives on leadership that may inform, challenge, and stimulate leadership in various ministerial contexts.

Course Objectives:

- To discover the different ways in which leaders functioned in the Bible
- To reflect upon one's own leadership in light of biblical texts, figures, and themes
- To explore biblical images of leader as shepherd, mentor, judge, prophet, contextual theologian, servant, lament coach, nurturer, etc.
- To deepen the integration of the Bible with ministry

Integration with Wesley's curricular objectives:

These course goals contribute to Wesley curricular goals in terms of Religious Heritage: that is, cultivating 1) knowledge of biblical foundations of Christian theology by studying biblical texts and 2) critical understanding of methodological issues in interpreting these traditions for contemporary faith and practice; Cultural Context: that is, 1) learning from diverse cultural perspectives on biblical texts, including from colleagues in class, and 2) appropriating methods for identifying and analyzing cultural patterns, social structures, and economic forces shaping biblical communities and communities of interpreters; Ministerial and Public Leadership, that is, looking at the skills expressed by biblical leaders such as Moses, David, and Paul in order to glean hints for fruitful contemporary ministry; and Personal and Spiritual Formation, that is, 1) integration of the emotional, spiritual, moral, and intellectual aspects of biblical texts into one's ministry, and 2) self-awareness of one's emotional processes in appropriating texts and views of colleagues.

Required Texts:

Richard Ascough and Charles Cotton, *Passionate Visionary: Leadership Lessons from the Apostle Paul*, Hendrickson, 2006.

Norman Cohen, *Moses and the Journey to Leadership*, Jewish Lights, 2007.

Blaine McCormick and David Davenport, *Shepherd Leadership: Wisdom for Leaders from Psalm 23*, Jossey-Bass, 2003.

Lewis Parks and Bruce Birch, *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership*,

Abingdon, 2004.

Recommended Texts:

Efrain Agosto, *Servant Leadership: Jesus and Paul*, Chalice, 2005.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*, 2nd ed., Fortress, 2001.

Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, *Journey Through the Psalms*, rev. and expanded ed., Chalice, 2002.

Denise Dombkowski Hopkins and Michael S. Koppel, *Grounded in the Living Word: The Old Testament and Pastoral Care Practices*, Eerdmans, 2010.

Disability Policy: If you have a physical, psychological, or learning disability and might require accommodations in this course, please contact immediately the Associate Dean for Community Life regarding Wesley's policies and procedures for documenting and accommodating disabilities, x8612 or alee@wesleyseminary.edu

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. The Faculty regards the following as forms of plagiarism or dishonesty:

- Copying from another student's paper
- Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination
- Using unauthorized material during an examination
- Borrowing and presenting as one's own (i.e. without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another, including internet sources

Recommended Web Sites:

bibleodyssey.com – the interactive web site of the Society of Biblical Literature focusing on texts, people, and places.

www.textweek.com -- ecumenical resources for study, liturgy, and reflection, including art index, movie connections and reviews. Web Mistress: Jenee Woodward, UMC, graduate of St. Paul School of Theology.

www.cresourcei.org – Christian Resource Institute, a ministry of Light Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma. Ecumenical and global (non-English resources). Webmaster: Dennis Bratcher, Ph.D., Union Seminary, VA.

www.EnterTheBible.org - A free, comprehensive, and trustworthy resource written by Luther Seminary faculty.

www.aapc.org – Official website of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Helpful referral information and other resources.

Grade Requirements:

1. Class participation: 15% of your grade

2. **Pre-class assignment:** Read each of the four assigned texts. Write a two-page (typed, double-spaced, 12 font, Calibri) reflection on each one, noting:

- 1) three (3) main points of the author

- 2) two (2) leadership qualities discussed which you believe you already exhibit and why
- 3) two (2) leadership qualities discussed which you currently do not exhibit and/or would like to develop further.

Each 10% of your grade, for 40% total.

Due the first day of class. Please post on Blackboard under Assignments before 9 a.m. Monday, Jan 4, 2016.

3. Post-class assignment: Due 6 weeks after the last class, Friday, February 19, 2016 by 10 p.m. Please post on Blackboard under Assignments. I will grade these papers electronically and they will be available to you with my comments by clicking on Grade Center.

a. In consultation with 'lead sheep' in your ministry setting, craft a creation story for your organization. Use the handout in Leading Ideas by Tom Berlin (March 4, 2009) as a template (posted on Blackboard under Information). When told (this is a story; it is not simply read), this creation story should be no longer than **5 minutes**.

Your creation story needs to be centered on one or two biblical texts that help to express your ministry setting's past, frame its present, and spark its future.

Outline a plan for sharing this story with/telling this story to your ministry setting, e.g. video, website, liturgy. 20% of your grade.

b. Lovett Weems argues [*Leading Ideas*: April 12, 2006] that "those who become the most effective leaders are persons who understand themselves."

What have you learned in this class about yourself as a ministerial leader? What limitations, unrealistic self-images, and strengths have you identified? Which of the biblical figures studied have helped you to make these identifications? What new possibilities do you see for yourself as a leader, and how will you go about realizing these possibilities in your ministry? Give at least one concrete suggestion for how you might implement each possibility.

This paper will require that you take into account assigned readings, class discussion and issues raised in the small group exercises. 8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 font, Calibri. 25% of your grade.

Class Outline:

Monday: Introductions. Creation stories and identity. Shepherd Leadership.

Tuesday: Leader as Lament Coach. Wounded Story tellers. The prophetic task.

Wednesday: Theodicy and Job. Moses as Leader

Thursday: Paul as Leader

Friday: David as Leader. Intersections

Class will end at 12 noon on Friday, Jan. 8.