

Wesley Theological Seminary – Doctor of Ministry Program

Elective Course Offering

Course: DM-977 Alligators and Urgency: Leadership Readiness

Dates: January 11 – January 15, 2016

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Pastors are expected to lead but not to cause trouble. What can we learn about ourselves, others, and our ministry setting that will stimulate opportunities for authentic leadership? This course will introduce students to an instrument designed to foster awareness and skill development both for self and with others. These tools then will be applied to questions of power and voice in ministry, especially as more and more churches struggle to respond to change. Students will complete the course with practical, faithful resources for developing their own leadership readiness.

Required Reading

Kotter, John, A Sense of Urgency (Boston: Harvard Business Press, 2008)

Thompson, Beverly A., and George B. Thompson, Jr, Ready to Lead: Harnessing the Energy in You and Around You, (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2015)

Thompson, George B., Jr., et. al., Alligators in the Swamp: Power, Ministry, and Leadership, (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2005)

Textbooks will be available through Wesley's Amazon ebookstore.

Pre-Class time Assignment

1. From your own life experience, select an appropriate incident for each one of the four questions on page 1 of Ready to Lead. Take about 300 words each to respond in writing to each one of the questions. Allow yourself time to reflect thoughtfully on each one.
2. Write a sentence or short paragraph that articulates your definition of leadership. What has informed your perspective on this definition?