

Wesley Theological Seminary

Course of Study Online

July 10-14, 2023

CS 124: Transformative Leadership

Faculty: Rev. Dr. Aaron M. Bouwens

Email: abouwens@wesleyseminary.edu or aaronbouwens@unyumc.org

Phone: 607-591-5780

Course Objectives

This course seeks to form the student's identity as a pastoral leader and change agent within congregations, the United Methodist Church, and the world by helping students:

1. Identify and understand the attributes of good leaders, biblically and theologically
2. Learn how discerning and communicating a vision and narrative leadership are essential to effectuating change in congregations
3. Understand the dynamics of change in congregational life
4. See leadership as an interactive, collaborative process that inherently involves group processes and forms others as leaders

Textbooks

Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture, Integrity, Revised Edition (Abingdon Press, 2010) by Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership (Abingdon Press, 2004) by Lewis A. Parks and Bruce C. Birch.

Finding our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change (Alban Institute, 2010) Larry Goleman, Editor.

Assignments

Due June 11, 2023

Reading Integration 1 (25% of grade)

Read *Ducking Spears Dancing Madly* by Lewis Parks and Bruce Birch and read *Finding our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change*, Larry Goleman, Editor. Write a 7-9 page, double-spaced paper. The first half should be devoted to *Ducking Spears Dancing Madly*. Please identify the three to five most important learnings related to leadership that you gleaned from this book and discussed how they relate to your personal leadership in your ministry setting. The second half of your paper should discuss *Finding Our Story*. Describes specific clues or strategies from the book that you might use to communicate more effectively in your current ministry context.

Due on July 2, 2023

Reading Integration 2 (25% of Grade)

This assignment deals with your reading of *Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture, Integrity*, Revised Edition by Lovett H. Weems, Jr. Based on your reading of this book, discuss in turn each of the four key elements of leadership highlighted in this book. Describe why each is critical to effective leadership. Then discuss specific clues or strategies you might use to deploy this aspect of leadership more effectively in your current ministry context. This assignment should be 7-8 pages, doubled spaced.

Due July 16, 2023

Leadership Perspective (30% of grade)

Write a 3-5 page paper synthesizing the aspects of the course. This paper is intended to be more of a reflection and offering of your perspective than an academic retelling of information. Be sure to show how the reading has influenced your thinking, as well as how the class sessions have deepened your perspective. Finally, successful papers will show how your learning from this course will impact your practice of leadership as you provide pastoral leadership for the church. It will be helpful to start this paper before the end of the class sessions however, it will be helpful to not finalize the paper until the conclusion of the last session July 14, 2023.

All papers will be evaluated by the standards of the assignment, clarity of writing, accuracy, consistency, the ability to make a coherent argument, and fidelity to proper academic standards, including accurate quotation and citation of sources. Papers must include complete references. Proper citation of all sources is expected. Please submit all papers double spaced in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with 1 inch margins. ***Papers more than 1 page shorter or longer than the page requirements will be marked down accordingly.***

Class Participation (20% of grade) All students are expected to be present and engaged during class time. A few, short additional readings may be provided for use during Zoom sessions in July. Students will be expected to demonstrate they have read and engaged with that material.

Zoom Sessions

May 30, 2023 at 7pm, there will be an introductory Zoom session that is optional. This session will review the syllabus as well as review the expectations for the class. All Zoom sessions the week of July 10-14, will be from 1:30pm-3:45pm with a break in the middle. It is expected students will attend each session in its entirety. Limited exceptions can be made in consultation with the instructor.

Here is an outline of the material that will be primary to each day.

Monday (7/10)	Tuesday (7/11)	Wednesday (7/12)	Thursday (7/13)	Friday (7/14)
Spiritual Leadership	Principles of Leadership	Environment for Transformation	Practicing Leadership	Leading in Distracted Times

