I. **Course Description:**
The objective of this course is to help the Christian leader examine the biblical and theological basis and nature of leadership as well as to understand the theory and develop the skills necessary for effective leadership in the church. Group dynamics, principles of change, planning, organizational development, and other concepts are considered. Varieties of learning experiences related to the Christian leader’s current ministerial situation are provided. (4 semester hours)

II. **Co-requisite Course:**
This course is a co-requisite with DM 7051 Applied Ministry Experience in Christian Leadership.

III. **Course Objectives:**
The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Appraise Christian leadership books as well as secular ones to highlight the best practices and outcomes in leadership.
- Examine biblical teachings on leadership and compare/contrast it to their own leadership style.
- Evaluate their personal walk with God in the context of leadership in order to lead at a higher level.
- Reflect on their current leadership skills in light of previous leadership challenges.

IV. **Course Texts:**

**Required Texts:** All students must read the required books.

Additional Reading: Students should complete a total of 2,000 pages of reading, including the two required texts, by the beginning of the seminar. This total should include at least one text from each of the following categories.

**Read at Least One of the Following on Spiritual Leadership:**


**Read at Least One of the Following on Secular Leadership:**

Read at Least One of the Following on Working with People:


Read at Least One of the Following on Leadership Growth:


Read at Least One of the Following Leadership Biographies:


V. Course Requirements:

Pre-seminar Assignments:
1. In chapter 4 of *Spiritual Leadership,* the Blackabys discuss "Sources of a Leader's Vision." In a five page essay summarize the various sources and analyze what the effect is on churches or Christian organizations based on which source they obtain your vision from." Site-specific references from your reading with appropriate footnotes.

2. Book Critique – Select one of the books that are included on the additional reading list and write a five-page critique following guidelines to be given later. Contact Dr. McDonald (larry.mcdonald@ngu.edu) with your top three book choices as only one student may review a book. He will notify you which book has been assigned to you.

3. Research Paper – Prepare a 15 page paper on one of the topics listed below. Formatting guidelines will be given later. Each student should come prepared to make a 20-minute presentation including a one-page handout outlining the main ideas of the presentation. Contact Dr. McDonald (larry.mcdonald@ngu.edu) to give him your top two choices. He will notify you which topic has been assigned to you.

- Focus: How do leaders keep their organization focused on the “main thing?”
- God’s Agenda: How do leaders know what God’s agenda is for their organization? How do they move their people on to it and keep them there?
- Opposition: How do leaders deal with it? How do you keep yourself from becoming consumed by it?
➢ Balance: How can a leader’s life be balanced? Should it be?

➢ How do leaders attract the best people to work with and stay with them?

➢ Finishing well: What must leaders do to ensure they finish well?

➢ Dark Sides: Does every leader have a “dark side?” If so, how do they identify and address it?

➢ Optimism: Is a pessimistic leader a contradiction in terms?

➢ As an organization grows, should a leader be doing more or less?

➢ How can leaders keep growing personally when they are so busy?

➢ How do leaders “encourage the heart” of their followers?

➢ What is the difference between a bureaucrat and a leader? Why are there so many bureaucrats today?

➢ What are the top three things leaders must do?

➢ How important are “results” to a leader? Are they everything?

➢ Should Christian leaders be concerned with “numbers?”

➢ Are leaders born or made?

➢ What does the Bible say are the most important qualities of a leader?

➢ What does a healthy leadership team look like? How do you get one?

➢ Does the Bible teach that the church should have single or multiple elders?

➢ How do leaders succeed in their home while still succeeding at work?

➢ What are the biblical qualifications for being a pastor? Do churches follow these guidelines today? Why or why not?

➢ What are the signs that it is time for leaders to move on from their current position? How good are leaders at reading these signs?

➢ If leadership is a character profession, how do leaders experience character growth when they are in a leadership position?
➢ Do leaders always make their organizations better?

➢ How close should ministers get to their people? Is there a safe distance ministers ought to maintain?

4. Personal Case Study – Write a five-page reflective case study on a leadership challenge you faced in the past. Identify areas where you grew personally and as a leader through that experience. What did you "take away" from that event? How will you lead more effectively in the future as a result? Be prepared to share from this paper in a small group setting.

In-class Assignments:
Be prepared to participate in-class discussion and be ready to make your presentation following the schedule provided in “Course Content.”

VI. Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sources of a Leader’s Vision Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Critique</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper and Presentation</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study Essay</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Points 1000

Grade Scale for this Course:

91 to 100  A
81 to 90   B
71 to 80   C
61 to 70   D
60 or below  F
V. Classroom Etiquette

Cell phones, smart phones, and other email devices should be turned off during class (not on vibrate). Students are asked not to take calls during class or leave class to take a call. Calls should be returned only during breaks. It disrupts class when students leave to take messages and is disrespectful to other members and the instructor.

When wireless internet access is available, students should not use their computers to surf the internet or check email during class. This can be highly distracting to the class process. Internet searches should only be conducted as part of the class discussion or process.

Business casual is the appropriate dress.