

North Park Theological Seminary  
MNST 7361: Leadership and Empowering Laity for Church Growth (3 Semester Hours)  
Soong-Chan Rah Fall Semester, 2012

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an examination of the nature and issues of leadership in the church. Such elements as systems thinking, leadership style, team development, change management, spiritual gifts, and working with laity will be considered as they relate to clergy and laity leading for church growth and health.

**II. COURSE METHODOLOGY**

Leadership is a complex and comprehensive phenomenon and in this course it is further nuanced by the concern that leadership empowers laity for church growth and health. Good leadership combines valid theories, accurate knowledge, critical values, relevant skills, and practical experience. Developing into an effective leader in God's kingdom is a life-long process that takes personal effort, mentoring and modeling by others, opportunities to exercise leadership, and the gracious, sovereign work of God. This course provides exposure to many of the components that make up leadership wisdom. Classes will include a mix of lectures, class discussion, and group presentations. Each class member will be expected to participate fully and to prepare for class through reading and reflection.

**III. OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, participants should

1. be able to articulate a practical philosophy of Christian leadership in the church.
2. be aware of major theories and dimensions of leadership and organizational culture.
3. understand the challenges for Christian leadership with respect to empowering lay leaders, developing teams, gender and ethnic perspectives, situational factors, etc.
4. understand the conditions and dynamics that enhance or inhibit church health and growth.
5. be able to look at professional ministry through the eyes of a layperson and know how to identify, recruit, and equip laity for the ministries of the church.
6. have reflected on team roles and development and have participated in team projects.

**IV. TEXTS**

Scazzerro, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003).

Shawchuck, Norman, and Roger Heuser. *Managing the Congregation: Building Effective Systems to Serve People*. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996).

Willhauk, Susan & Jacquelyn Thorpe, *The Web of Women's Leadership* (Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2001).

500 pages of additional readings including the McIntosh article, a book on church growth (see course assignment B), and additional reading required for the final group project.

**V. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

**A. Attendance, Participation and Completion of Required Readings (15%)**

**B. Church Growth Assignment (20%)**

Review the McIntosh article from Blackboard. Skim ONE of the following books: Bill and Lynne Hybels, *Rediscovering Church* or Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Church*. Discuss the philosophy, theology and sociology of church growth as outlined in the readings and lecture material (including motivation, problematic elements). Based upon your readings and reflection, discuss positive and redemptive elements of church growth that can be applied in the local church setting. (1200 words)

**C. Interviews of Lay Leaders (20%)**

Interview two lay leaders you respect concerning various issues raised in this course using a prepared list of questions. Write a 1200 word essay on what you learned from them about perceptions of lay persons with regard to lay leadership development, professional church leaders they have served with/under, and church health and growth. Students will report in class on their interviews, reflecting critically on the experience and the content of the interviews.

**D. Interview of Minister (20%)**

Interview a credentialed, full-time church minister whom you respect concerning various issues raised in this course using a prepared list of questions generated in class. Write a 1200 word "Profile of a Leader" paper. Negative or critical comments may be included as a "note to the editor." Students will report in class on their interviews, reflecting critically on the experience and the content of the interview.

**E. Workshop by Team (25%)**

Student teams will research and present to the class a selected topic in a workshop format. The workshop should be 25- 30 minutes long. Included in its design will be a variety of teaching methods and opportunities for the full participation of class members. Handouts sufficient for a customized re-creation of the workshop will be distributed or posted on Blackboard. Include an annotated bibliography relevant to the topic of at least 7 books or articles which have been read by various team members and 3 alternate sources (e.g., curriculum, video, websites, regularly given seminars, etc.). Grading will be based on depth of research and knowledge, full-team participation, and creative and helpful pedagogy. Grades will be assigned based on a common mark for the workshop and team assessments of each member.

Workshops should be presented as if being presented to a group of lay leaders at your local church. Topics will be assigned from the following:

- Transformational Leadership
- Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts or Assets
- Fiscal Resources and Budgeting
- Organization / Polity for a Church Plant
- Developing a Small Group Ministry
- How to Run a Committee Meeting

**VI. FACULTY**

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