

Western Kentucky University
LEAD 395 – Contemporary Issues in Leadership
Course Syllabus

All information pertaining to this course at this website, including course policies, is subject to change until the first day of the semester. Check the "last modified date" at the top of the page to insure you have the most current version.

Instructor Information

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Center for Leadership Excellence
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Office Hours:
MTWTRF 8:00-4:30 pm by appointment

Course Information

Catalog Description: Analysis of contemporary issues from a leadership perspective.

Course Content Discipline: Leadership Studies **Credit Hours:** 3

Course Topics:

1. Varied topics viewed from a leadership perspective such as:

- The role of nation state;
- Economic and social aspects of globalization
- Cross-cultural problems and leadership theories
- International efforts to address deprivation;
- Sustainment;

2. How to best lead evolving social groups;

3. Leadership challenges of a diverse, gendered society;
4. Role of educational institutions in leadership development.

Why take this course? This is a required course in the BS Organizational Leadership degree, a required course in the Leadership professional concentration for the Systems Management degree, an elective in the Nonprofit Administration minor, and satisfies the Category III elective requirement for the undergraduate leadership certificate program. This course may also serve as an elective of interest to students who plan to hold a leadership role within an organization.

Course Prerequisites: LEAD 200 or permission of instructor. A basic understanding of general leadership theories and concepts is essential.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to achieve the following:

1. Gain broad, critical knowledge of contemporary leadership issues, trends, and processes;
2. Explore the dynamics of leader/follower relations across diverse cultures in contemporary contexts;
3. Critique, synthesize, and present the salient points from a set of readings on current leadership issues;
4. Demonstrate the ability to make links between theory and practice around a contemporary leadership issue, through integration of critical perspectives from the literature and reflections on relevant case studies.

Text: (Required)

No required textbook. Materials will be posted on Blackboard for you to read. Other reading will come from (primarily) internet research on selected contemporary topics.

Major Teaching Methods: Students shall be expected to watch assigned videos, participate in online asynchronous class discussion (discussion board posting), complete individual and/or group projects, and complete reading assignments from text and those posted to course site. Students will need to access the class Blackboard site and his or her WKU email account regularly.

Grading/Evaluation: Students will be evaluated using the following:

1. Completion of reading and video assignments, class participation, and meeting deadlines via discussion boards/quizzes/short answer assignments
2. Exams - 2 exams will combine objective and essay items
3. Case studies (3) and a reflection paper (1) – each approximately 2-3 pages in length (APA style 6th ed., double spaced, 1" margins, Times New Roman 12 pt. font)

Late Work: The grade for assignment turned in after the designated deadline will be reduced by **10% for each day** it is late.

Point Assignment

Evaluation Item	Points Possible
Discussion Boards (9)	180
Exam (mid-term and final)	400
Short papers (1 reflection and 3 case study)	400
Introduction Module Quiz and DB	20
Total	1000

This is a point-based system (not percentage-based). Final grades will be assigned on the following scale: 900-1000 points = A; 800-899 points = B; 700-799 points = C; 600-699 points = D; below 600 points **or cheating** = F.

Plagiarism Policy: Please read the university policy on plagiarism at:

http://www.wku.edu/handbook/2009/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59:academic-offenses&catid=36:academic-offenses&Itemid=60

Students with Disabilities Who Require Accommodations

Syllabus Statement

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, DUC A200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270)745-5004; TTY is 745-3030.

Please **DO NOT** request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Exams: Exams will not be proctored at test centers. Both exams will be considered “open-book” and you are encouraged to use your notes and other materials within the allowed time of 2 hours. Grading will be commensurate with these test conditions (accuracy and high quality will be expected).

Additional Notes:

Announced times are in the Central Time Zone.

When e-mailing the instructor put **LEAD 395 in the subject line** – please include your last name and Course in the subject line of all e-mails. I have a filtering system that will send all LEAD 395 e-mails to a special folder. Failure to do so may result in your e-mail ending up in my spam filter. An example is “Smith-LEAD 395”.

Official Course Language: English

Special Materials needed for the on-line student

Regular internet access and e-mail. Latest browser version is recommended. Speakers required for video sound. Papers must be submitted in a format compatible with Microsoft Word.

Location/Synchronicity Requirements

No face-to-face meetings are required although students are welcome to schedule an office visit or telephone contact with the instructor.

Participation

It would be wise to arrange a backup plan for internet access in case the student’s primary computer fails. Libraries may offer such a resource.

Privacy Policy

1. Privacy: The Internet may change or challenge notions of what is private and what isn't. Although the course is protected by a password, such tools are not perfect as human beings are using them. The student is relatively protected by the password but no one can guarantee privacy on-line.

a. Course software enables the instructor to know which students have logged in, where in the course site they have visited, and how long they have stayed. The technology support people have access to information posted at the site.

b. Course Security: In the event the student uses a public terminal (for example, at a hotel or library) the student needs to completely close the browser software when finished. This will prevent another person from accessing the course using the student's identification, doing mischief in the student's name, and violating the privacy of other students. The student is not to allow access to the course to those not registered in the course. Passwords should be guarded.

c. Students sometimes want to discuss their grade via e-mail. E-mail is NOT secure or private. If an individual student requests his/her grade, the instructor cannot legally send to that student his/her grade through e-mail without a legal signature from that student on a permission form.

d. Participants are expected to represent their identities in a truthful manner. Falsifying your identity is grounds for disciplinary action of all parties involved.

2. On-line discussion is generally looser and more free-flowing than face-to-face. It is expected that everyone exercise a basic respect for one another, which is expected to be defined more explicitly by the group. Spelling and grammar are not important concerns when posting to discussion boards; spelling and grammar do, however, carry weight in formal papers.

3. Intellectual Property. It is a common misconception that material on the Internet is free. That is false. All intellectual property laws apply. Students are expected to post only material that is theirs by right of creation. Proper credit must be given for any material used which the student does not personally create. This includes images. For example, professionally done photos belong to the photographer and not the subject who only buys copies.

The Learning Center

Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing University Center, A330) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC @ DUC offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area, with side rooms designated for peer to peer tutoring, and offers a thirty-two machine Dell computer lab to complete academic coursework. Additionally, TLC has three satellite locations. Each satellite is a quiet study center and is equipped with a small computer lab. These satellites are located in Douglas Keen Hall, McCormack Hall, and Pearce Ford Tower. For more information, or to schedule a tutoring appointment, please call TLC at (270) 745-6254. www.wku.edu/tlc

Hours of Operation:

TLC @ DUC

Sunday	4:00pm – 9:00 pm
Monday – Thursday	8:00am – 9:00pm
Friday	8:00am – 4:00pm

TLC @ Keen

Sunday – Thursday	6:00pm – 11:00pm
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TLC @ McCormack

Sunday – Thursday	6:00pm – 11:00pm
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TLC @ PFT

Sunday – Thursday	6:00pm – 11:00pm
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(PFT residents and their guests only)

WKU Writing Center

Locations: 123 Cherry Hall and Cravens Library 4th floor

What we do –

Writers need feedback from readers to help refine their writing. The Writing Center can give you this feedback. Our tutors will talk with you about your writing to help you:

- Brainstorm ideas
- Clarify main points
- Strengthen logic and support
- Integrate sources and credit them properly
- Smooth out organization
- Fine-tune sentence style
- Learn to proofread

Email feedback is also available for students who can't get to us when we're open. See [the website](http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/AHSS/English/wccenter/wcpage.html) (<http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/AHSS/English/wccenter/wcpage.html>) for details on how to submit drafts by email.