

Wesley Theological Seminary – Course of Study
CS-124 – Transformative Leadership
October 8 – 9 and November 5 – 6, 2021

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Ann A. Michel
amichel@wesleyseminary.edu

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, theologically, and practically
2. Understand the dynamics of change in congregational life
3. Consider how discerning and communicating a vision is essential to effectuating change in congregations
4. See leadership as an interactive, collaborative process that inherently involves group processes and forms others as leaders

TEXT BOOKS

Note: You should read both books in advance of the first class session and before completing your pre-assignment. Specific chapters from these books and other short reading assignments will be highlighted in the online learning modules.

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

The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective (Bethany House, 2010) by Brandon O'Brien.

COURSE COMPONENTS

Note: All assignments and online learning material will be available on Blackboard starting Friday, September 10.

1. **Written Pre-assignment.** Due October 6, 2021 (30% of grade)
In this assignment you will be asked to assess your strengths and weaknesses as a leader in relation to the leadership demands of your ministry setting. Details of this assignments will be found on Blackboard and your work should be submitted via Blackboard.
2. **Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9 - Live Class Sessions.** Via Zoom
Login instructions will be announced via Blackboard.

Friday, October 8 5 pm – 7 pm	Saturday, October 9 10 am - noon
Course Overview The Nature of Leadership	Leading Change in the Church

3. Online Learning Modules. (30% of grade)

Students will be asked to complete three online learning modules presented via Blackboard, one per week in the weeks following the October class session. Each module concludes with a brief individual assignment. These modules pertain to the following subjects:

- Biblical models of leadership
- Discovering and articulating a shared vision
- Working with teams

4. Final Written Assignment. Due November 5. (40% of grade)

In this assignment you will be asked to outline personal leadership goals and plans that draw on key learnings from our text books and course learnings. Details of this assignments will be found on Blackboard and your work should be submitted via Blackboard.

5. Friday, November 5 and Saturday, November 6 Live Class Sessions. Via Zoom

Login instructions will be announced via Blackboard.

Friday, November 5 5 pm – 7 pm	Saturday, November 6 10 am - noon
Engaging Others Developing Others as Leaders	Responding to Conflict Communications

GRADING

Feedback on assignments will be provided via Blackboard. Final grades will be posted no later than November 22 as stipulated in the instructor’s teaching contract. Assignments will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of mastery of course teachings
- Application of key learnings from reading assignments
- Clarity and focus of written work
- Ability to contextualize course learnings and apply them to ministry context

Grades will be tabulated based on the following distribution:

Pre-class written assignment	15%
Online learning modules	30%
Final written assignment	40%
Class Participation	15%