

Syllabus

Mississippi Course of Study
COS 124: Transformative Leadership
July 18 - August 27, 2022
Online Only

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Course Description

COS 124 Transformative Leadership forms the student's identity as pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, the United Methodist Church, and the world.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify and understand the attributes of good leaders, biblically and theologically.
- Evaluate and strengthen their own identities and skills as pastoral leaders.
- Explain and reflect on the nature of change in the local congregations and wider society.
- Implement visioning, strengthening, and planning processes in their local congregations.

Required Textbooks

Parks, Lewis A. And Bruce C. Birch. *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership*. Nashville: Abington Press, 2004. ISBN 978-0-687-09285-7.

O'Brien, Brandon J. *The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2010. ISBN 978-0-7642-0783-9.

Online Model

The course will consist of three Zoom sessions as listed below. There will also be asynchronous learning periods as well.

July 22 and 23: Zoom Sessions Friday evening and Saturday morning.

August 5 and 6: Zoom Sessions Friday evening and Saturday morning.

August 19 and 20: Zoom Sessions Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Reading Assignment One

Read all of *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly* in preparation for class and your first written assignment.

Asynchronous Assignment One - Due Monday, July 18, 2022

This will be a time for introductions and to watch one video about call. (Two hours)

Written Assignment One - Due Thursday, July 21, 2022

Write a five page review of the call stories of Samuel, Saul and David in *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly*. Reflect on the similarities and differences of the call stories.

Write another five page paper about your own call story to ministry and how it is similar or different to those of Samuel, Saul and David.

Papers should be double-spaced with 12 point text. Please be sure to site a page number in the book, when quoting anything in the text.

Submit your papers by email in Word, Pages or PDF by the due date.

First Zoom Session - Friday, July 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

This session will provide time to get to know one another and share our call stories as they relate to the calls of Samuel, Saul and David.

Second Zoom Session - Saturday, July 23, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

This session will focus on the pitfalls of leadership and the failures of the biblical characters in our reading.

Asynchronous Assignment Two - Due Monday, August 1, 2022

You will be listening to three audio podcasts and sharing your reflections in Course Connect. (Three hours)

Written Assignment Two - Due Thursday, August 4, 2022

Write a three page paper reflecting on your reading of *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly* and class discussion regarding your own feelings and experiences of temptations and faults in your ministry. How are you finding ways to strengthen your leadership and avoiding pitfalls in ministry?

Write a two page paper about your understanding and experience of Gate Keepers as described in *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly*.

Third Zoom Session - Friday, August 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday's session will explore Gate Keepers and various concepts of leadership.

Fourth Zoom Session - Saturday, August 5, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday's session will continue to experience leadership concepts.

Asynchronous Assignment Three - Due Monday, August 15, 2022

You will be listening to three audio podcasts and responding to questions and to one another. (Three hours)

Reading Assignment Two

Read *The Strategically Small Church* in preparation for your written assignment and class discussion.

Written Assignment Three - Due Thursday, August 18, 2022

Submit a five page paper answering the questions below.

What did you find helpful about the description of the small church in the reading? What did not seem helpful in the reading regarding your experience of a small church? If you were the author of the book, how would you describe what it means to be a small church today? What does a vital small church look like?

Fifth Zoom Session - Friday, August 19, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Friday evening session will be devoted to discussing the reading assignment for the session.

Sixth Zoom Session - Saturday, August 20, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The Saturday morning session will provide discussion for creative leadership in the small church.

Grading

Each paper will provide you with a possible score of 10 points for a total of 50 points.

Asynchronous work will provide you with a possible score of 25 total points.

Class participation will provide you with a possible score of 25 total points.