



Mississippi Annual Conference
COURSE OF STUDY
COS124: Transformative Leadership
Summer 2024 07/14/2025 – 09/01/2025

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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.

Course Model

The course will consist of

(8) 2-hour ZOOM classes

MONDAYS 6pm – 8pm: July 14, July 21, July 28, August 4, August 11, August 18, August 25,
THURSDAY, 6pm – 8pm: August 28

(2) two-hour asynchronous projects.

GRADE DEDUCTION POLICY FOR LATE WORK

Work that is not received by the deadline will receive a grade deduction of 1/3 letter-grade per day it is late. For example: If your “A” assignment is one day late, it will drop to an A-. If it’s two days late, it will drop to a B+ and so on.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Plagiarism is a combination of stealing and lying.

“You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person, leading your readers to think that those words are yours” (201 -202). Booth,



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Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*, Second Edition. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003. COS uses plagiarism-detection software on every paper you turn in. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive academic consequences and your district & annual conference will be notified

Grading

4 Writing Assignments worth 15 points each	60 points
2 Asynchronous Project worth 10 points	20 points
Final Project worth 20 points	20 points

GRADING RUBRIC (how each assignment is graded):

50% - content	20% - creativity and engagement
10% - proper formatting	10% - grammar and spelling
10% - proper citation of quotes (if applicable)	

COS GRADING SCALE

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 65-66
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	F 0-64

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, and on 8.5”x11” paper.
- The font should be Times New Roman, 12 point.
- Margins should be 1” on all sides.
- All papers must include a page number and the student’s last name in the header or footer. Example: “Walker – page 2”
- All quotations must be properly cited.
- Submit your papers by Course Connect in Word or PDF by **5PM (CST) on the due date.**

SECTION ONE: The Leader Within



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The first TWO assignments will be from the book, “Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly,” as we do some self-examination around our propensities and problems in being a leader. We cannot give what we do not possess. Leadership begins with self-awareness.

Written Assignment One - Due Monday, July 21st by 5pm

Write a 3-page paper that:

- A. Review the call stories of Samuel, Saul and David
- B. Reflects on the similarities and differences of their call stories.
- C. Compare and contrast your own call story with those of these biblical leaders

Written Assignment Two – Due Saturday, July 28th by 5pm

Write a 3-page reflection on the pitfalls of leadership as identified in the lives of Samuel, Saul, and David and identify your own temptations and weaknesses in leadership. Include an analysis of how “speaking uncomfortable truths” is necessary but can also become an obstacle if not handled intentionally and correctly.

Asynchronous Project A – Due Thursday, August 1st by 5pm

Watch **Great leadership starts with self-leadership | Lars Sudmann | TEDxUCLouvain**
<https://youtu.be/vlpKyLkIDDY?si=1U4RvFfpqY7nTmjV>

Write a 2-page reflection on how “self-leadership,” “self-awareness,” and “self-reflection” could have impacted the leadership of King David.

SECTION TWO: The Leader Without

The final TWO assignments will be from the book, “The Strategically Small Church,” as we now move from knowing ourselves to knowing our people and strategically empowering our people to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Written Assignment Three – Due Monday, August 11th by 5pm

Write a 3-page reflection on what it means to be an “authentic” church. What kind of self-awareness is required of pastoral leadership, lay leadership, and the congregation? And how does the need to be authentic feed into the need to rethink ministry form “large gathering” to “small, personal experiences?”

Written Assignment Four – Due Monday, August 25th by 5pm

Write a 3-page on being “nimble” and “effective” with our ministries. Why is this important? Why can’t we just do what we did last year? Why can’t we just do what everyone else does? How does the need to equip your people to dream for themselves, and then invite the church into their own ministry ideas play



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into being flexible? Why is this “pew to pulpit” approach so hard for our congregations? What are the safeguards we place on this process to keep the church from being distracted from its mission?

Asynchronous Project B – Due Monday, August 28th by 5pm

Watch **Start with why -- how great leaders inspire action** | Simon Sinek | TEDxPugetSound
https://youtu.be/u4ZoJKF_VuA?si=saE6b4ZTp1W94X8m

Write a 2-page reflection on how to effectively share and communication our “why,” which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to motive your congregation to look beyond themselves and focus on the mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

FINAL PROJECT: Spiritual and Strategic Leadership
Due Thursday, August 28th by 5pm

Write a 4-page strategic plan on how you would lead in the following crisis scenario. Address how you would handle this Spiritually (prayer, study, sermons, discussions, etc....) and how you would handle this Strategically (authenticity, flexibility, empowering people's passion, MAKING DISCIPLES).

Jane is a young mother in your congregation whose family are among your most faithful participants, givers, and leaders. They are also people of influence, especially among the growing young families. She asks for a meeting to share her heart. Jane has a strong desire to create a ministry that is focused on helping immigrant families with not only basic needs, but also by helping them navigate the paperwork and legal process of legal immigration.

You hear her heart and know her desire. But you also know that immigration is a political hot button for so many people. You know that in today's world, many in your congregation struggle to separate the political from the personal. This must be handled intentionally and carefully.