

★ WELCOME TO KU! ★

LA&S 101 – THEMATIC LEARNING COMMUNITY SEMINAR LEADERSHIP AND POLITICS

Semester One: Fall 2005 Syllabus and Schedule
3:30-4:20pm R 4007 Wescoe Hall

Instructor: Mary Banwart, Ph.D.
Office: 104B Bailey Hall
Office Hours: 12:30-2:30pm, M; 12:30-1:30pm, R;
and by appt.
Office Phone: 864-5681
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Peer Educator: Blair Thompson
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Course Description:

This first goal of this seminar is to enable you, as a first-year KU student, to make a successful academic transition to the University. You will be asked to explore why you are at the University, your goals, and how you can contribute to the academic and social community around you. Further, you will engage in a year-long service-learning project through which you will have an opportunity to examine your own leadership skills and beliefs, develop your research and communication skills, evaluate and analyze public/political communication to be a more informed citizen, and analyze how public involvement and public leadership – when enacted by the citizenry – shapes our society. This year-long experience will also include interaction with community and statewide leaders and the development of a formal presentation for primary audiences that include our university administration and members of the Kansas legislature.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should have:

1. Developed an understanding of various perspectives on leadership and leadership within our public/political sphere;
2. Practiced and observed the role of communication in leadership, particularly public/political leadership;
3. Examined the importance of leadership in a “community” context that offers exploration into notions of civic engagement and citizenship;
4. Explored the role of conflict and debate in leadership; and,
5. Started to formulate their personal definition and philosophy (credo) of leadership.

Required Readings:

Any assigned readings provided by the instructor.

Requirements and Evaluation:

Class Attendance, Participation, Activities/Projects: A quality learning experience in this course rests heavily on a high degree of interaction and exchange of ideas. Therefore, class attendance is essential and expected. You are allowed one total absence (excused or unexcused); each absence thereafter, no matter the reason, will constitute a deduction from your earned points. If you must miss a class, you are expected to get the notes and any handouts from one of your classmates, as well as any changes in the course schedule. Office hours will not be an opportunity to review a class that you have missed. We know in advance the dates and times scheduled for class. If you choose to have/attend another appointment/event scheduled for the time period reserved for class, you will not receive any extra opportunity to make up points made available that day.

Because our course will be examining politics, leadership, and political leadership, as well as your own perspectives on leadership in the public arena, we will also be attending various activities on campus and off-campus. At certain activities attendance will be required and at other activities attendance will be encouraged; regardless, the activities chosen and participated in will be selected so as to maximize your experience as a student, voter, and citizen.

Reaction Papers: Throughout the semester reaction papers will be assigned and completed. These will be 2-3 pages in length, and the focus (paper description, rubric, etc.) for these papers will be provided by the instructor. As with all writing for this course, students will be evaluated on organization, argument, evidence, and mechanics.

Service Learning Group Project: While the entire class will be working as a group throughout this next year, during this time you will also be working in smaller groups on various aspects of the larger group project. You will be expected to fully participate in both the larger group and smaller group as they evolve and develop, fulfill group expectations for meeting outside of class, conducting research (including on-site research) on your area of focus, participating in in-class presentations, and participating in other external class activities as they relate to your group focus. It is the expectation of the course that you will spend 2 hours each week outside of class either in group meetings or on-site research.

The products that will arise from your work, creativity, excitement, interest, and research include but are not limited to: guest speakers, development of information for formal presentation, and the creation of a web site.

Involvement Papers: At KU there are numerous speakers and lectures on campus – outside of class – that you will find interesting and engaging, and that will focus on leadership and/or politics. Throughout the semester plan to attend at least two – these may include major speakers sponsored by SUA, the Dole Institute, or KU’s Leadership Enhancement Series. After you attend, plan to write a 1-2 page (typed, double-spaced) paper that reflects on the information presented by the speaker and how it relates to your coursework, readings, service learning experience, and/or what we have discussed in class; also attach the program from the event. **Be sure to let Blair know at least 24-hours in advance of your attendance and turn all papers in to Blair within two days of attending the event.**

Semester Evaluation Paper: The final paper will be a 4-6 page paper (this means a full 4 pages; 3 ½ does not count) in which you examine what you have learned through this course and TLC experience. You may be asked to synthesize such ideas as your philosophy of leadership, the expanded role of leadership we should assume through civic engagement, the role of and your views on leadership in politics, your experience in the TLC, and your experience at KU thus far. More details regarding this project will be provided as the semester progresses.

Grading:

Class Attendance, Participation, Activities	60 points
Reaction Papers (3)	75 points
Service Learning Group Project	100 points
Involvement papers (2)	10 points
Semester Evaluation Paper	<u>75 points</u>
	320 points

How to lose points (to be deducted from those you earn in the categories above):

Absence (from class or required activity; after one absence)	4 points/absence
Turning in work late	10% of possible grade if handed in after class begins and 10% of possible grade each day late thereafter

General Course Policies:

Late Work: The general policy of this course is that no late work will be accepted and no exams will be given outside of the class period in which they are scheduled. Any exceptions to this policy must be made by written petition and approved by the instructor before the date. Note: *computer or printer problems are not acceptable excuses for papers not turned at the time and date required.*

All papers/assignments immediately lose 10% of the possible grade when they are late (in other words, if the assignment is due at the beginning of class as they usually are, your assignment will be considered late if you arrive and turn in your assignment anytime after class begins); an additional 10% will be deducted for each day the assignment is turned in late thereafter.

Plagiarism: Each assignment must be original and done completely by each student. Student dishonesty includes plagiarism, using someone else's work as one's own, turning in the same work for more than one course, unauthorized communication with another student during or about tests, falsifying work, turning in another student's name on an assignment when that student failed to contribute, looking at another student's work during testing, and similar misconduct. In addition, students should never destroy or impede the work of other students. Students are expected to follow university policies as put forth in the University's Student Handbook.

Personal Technology Devices: Cell phones, beepers, and alarm watches must be turned off during class.

General: Staple all work that is handed in prior to arriving at class! The instructor will not be responsible for paperwork that is lost because it is not stapled together.

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact us personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

Tentative Schedule for Semester One:

Week	Date	Theme
1	Aug. 18	Introduction, discussion of syllabus
2	Aug. 25:	Politics and Leadership: is there a fit?
3	Sept. 1	Civic Engagement – and you!
4	Sept. 8	THE issue!
5	Sept. 15	THE issue! - II
6	Sept. 22	Leadership – what is in your portfolio? Reaction Paper I -- due
7	Sept. 29	Guest speaker/panel (group)
8	Oct. 6	Political leadership – experience, firsthand
9	Oct. 13	Guest speaker/panel (group) Reaction Paper II -- due
10	Oct. 20	Communication and politics – bridging the gap
11	Oct. 27	Guest speaker/panel (group)
12	Nov. 3:	Political advocacy – your party, your issue, your candidate Reaction Paper III -- due
13	Nov. 10	Guest speaker/panel (group)
14	Nov. 17	<i>Group meetings on your own!</i>
15	Nov. 24	<i>Thanksgiving holiday – no class!</i>
16	Dec. 1	Political leadership in history – looking forward can be enhanced by looking back
17	Dec. 8	Group updates and group work – in class
18	Dec. 15	1:30 – 4:00pm Group presentations, final paper due

**This is a tentative schedule and subject to change at the instructor's discretion.*

★ Go Jayhawks! ★

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Tentative Schedule for Semester One – UPDATE AS OF 10/03/05:

Week	Date	Theme
8	Oct. 6	Political leadership – experience, firsthand ***Meet at the Dole Institute*** All Groups: Research Plan Memo due
9	Oct. 13	<i>Fall break – enjoy and be safe!</i>
10	Oct. 20	Leadership and the political process All Groups: Update Memo (10/20) due All: post a comment and respond to a comment on the BB Discussion Board
11	Oct. 27	Leading by learning KU Administration: Group Guest Presentation Memo due Historical Trends: Update Memo (10/27) due Related Interests: Update Memo (10/27) due Policy: Update Memo (10/27) due All: post a comment and respond to a comment on the BB Discussion Board
12	Nov. 3:	Guest Speaker(s) Presentation: KU Administration Group Historical Trends: Group Guest Presentation Memo due Related Interests: Update Memo (11/03) due Policy: Update Memo (11/03) due All: post a comment and respond to a comment on the BB Discussion Board
13	Nov. 10	Guest Speaker(s) Presentation: Historical Trends Group KU Administration: Policy Brief due Related Interests: Group Guest Presentation Memo due Policy: Update Memo (11/10) due All: post a comment and respond to a comment on the BB Discussion Board
14	Nov. 17	Guest Speaker(s) Presentation: Related Interests Group KU Administration: Update Memo (11/17) due Historical Trends: Policy Brief Memo Policy: Group Guest Presentation Memo due All: post a comment and respond to a comment on the BB Discussion Board
15	Nov. 24	<i>Thanksgiving holiday – no class!</i>
16	Dec. 1	Guest Speaker(s) Presentation: Policy KU Administration: Update Memo (12/1) due Historical Trends: Update Memo (12/1) due Related Interests: Policy Brief due All: post a comment and respond to a comment on the BB Discussion Board

17	Dec. 7 ----- Dec. 8	End of the year poster session! <i>Required...</i> ----- Engagement and Leadership: Leading and learning take 2 KU Administration: Update Memo (12/8) due Historical Trends: Update Memo (12/8) due Related Interests: Update Memo (12/8) due Policy: Policy Brief due All: post a comment and respond to a comment on the BB Discussion Board
18	Dec. 15	1:30 – 4:00pm Group presentations, final paper due!

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1. Each memo description will be posted on Blackboard (BB) by its title (e.g., Update Memo 12/8) prior to its due date (see "Assignments" on the course site). Memos (Update memos and Group Presentation memos) are to be completed and turned in by each group – in other words, one for each group. Every member is expected to contribute to the content and completion of each memo. Group member names are to be listed individually on each memo; it will be considered plagiarism if a student's name appears on the memo who did not contribute to the content and completion of the memo.
2. Discussion questions for each week will be posted on BB so that students will have approximately a week to post a comment and to respond to a comment.
3. Each group has their own location on BB – see under the Communications and then Groups buttons. Groups may post articles and papers through this link for other group members to review, send an email to group members, etc.
4. In addition to the memo descriptions being posted on BB, a description outlining what is to be included (at a minimum) in the Policy Brief will be posted on BB. Samples of Policy Briefs will also be posted so that groups may get a sense of structure, design, etc.
5. As was indicated earlier in the semester, each group is to contribute to the overall learning of the class by contacting, making arrangements for, and organizing a classroom presentation that consists of representative constituencies for your topic area. In other words, as you define who your key contacts/constituencies are for your topic area, interview and interact with them, you will also make arrangements to have one or more of those individuals come to class to inform the rest of the group about your specialty topic area. You must have at least one individual from your topic area confirmed to visit, but you may also create a panel of representative individuals. For these sessions we will either plan to meet in our classroom, or, if it is logistically (parking, finding their way on campus) more appropriate that we meet at another campus location, please speak with me at your earliest convenience to make those arrangements.

Grading:

Class Attendance, Participation	40 points
Reaction Papers (1)	25 points
Service Learning Group Memos	95 points
Service Learning Group Project Presentation	100 points
Involvement papers (2)	10 points
Semester Evaluation Paper	<u>50 points</u>
	320 points

How to lose points (to be deducted from those you earn in the categories above):

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