

★ LA&S 101 – THEMATIC LEARNING COMMUNITY SEMINAR ★

★LEADERSHIP AND POLITICS★

Semester Two: Spring 2006 Syllabus and Schedule
4:00-4:50pm in 103 Bailey Hall

Instructor: Mary Banwart, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: 12:30-2:30pm, T; 9:00-10:00am, W;
and by appt.
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Course Description:

This first goal of this seminar is to further support you in situating yourself within the University environment as you finish your first-year transition. This second semester offers additional opportunities to engage in a service-learning project through which you will 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, analyze how public involvement and public leadership – when enacted by the citizenry – shapes our society, and be part of that process by participating and engaging in community application. This second-semester experience will include finalizing your formal presentation, interacting with community and statewide leaders, addressing community application and needs, and actually presenting the material you have researched and learned to political and administrative leaders.

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 community/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.

Service Learning Group Project: The project this semester will involve fine-tuning the presentation materials that you have and preparing them via PowerPoint for presentation to a group of lawmakers and other leaders by the first of March. Each individual will be expected to have a role in both the finalizing of the presentation and the actual presentation itself. The products that will arise from your work, creativity, excitement, interest, and research include but are not limited to: development of information for formal PowerPoint presentation that accompanies a verbal presentation.

In addition to the presentation you will make and your interaction with the legislature, we will expect to make some field trips during the semester. On the first day of class your instructor will ask for your spring schedule in hopes of scheduling a field trip(s) when the greatest majority of students can attend; we will also work with sending out official notices to your instructors if a trip might overlap with another class. All efforts will be made to work within your schedules.

Finally, while this class is not traditional in the sense that you will have readings for each class period, tests, and such typical classroom obligations, there is still an expectation that students spend approximately 2-3 hours per 1-hour in the classroom in preparation for that class. With that in mind, expect to spend time outside of the classroom to finalize your presentation. However, also built into this Service Learning project is an on-site component. In other words, you will work with community and/or political partners (we'll get more specific about this) to complete a minimum of 10-hours of volunteer service. We will finalize the details of this portion within the first few weeks of class; both you and your defined community and/or political partner will sign a contract for you to complete the hours in order to support both of you in the process. This will be an exciting opportunity to integrate what we discuss and are exposed to in the classroom with community application and needs.

Semester Evaluation Paper: The final paper will be a 5-8 page paper (this means a full 5 pages; 4 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, reflect on your community application, etc. More details regarding this project will be provided as the semester progresses.

Grading:

Class Attendance, Participation, Activities	60 points
Service Learning Group Project	200 points
Semester Evaluation Paper	<u>75 points</u>
	335 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 Two:

Week	Date	Theme
1	Jan. 24	Introduction, discussion of syllabus
2	Jan. 31:	Class meeting Business card templates due via email before class
3	Feb. 7:	Class meeting
4	Feb. 14:	Class meeting
5	Feb. 21:	Class meeting
6	Feb. 28:	Class meeting SL contract due
7	Mar. 7:	Class meeting
8	Mar. 14:	Class meeting
9	Mar. 21:	<i>Spring break! – no class!</i>
10	Mar. 28:	Class meeting
11	Apr. 4:	Class meeting
12	Apr. 11:	Class meeting
13	Apr. 18:	Class meeting
14	Apr. 25:	Class meeting
15	May 2:	Class meeting
16	May 9:	Class meeting
17	May 17:	1:30-4:00pm Final exam time period – paper due, final debrief

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