

# Character, Virtue, and Wisdom in Leadership (IL 512)

## Course Syllabus

Last Updated: 1/24/19

### Class Info

Professor: Dr. A.J. Swoboda  
Facilitator: Shawn Lorenzen  
Facilitator E-mail: shawnlorenzen@icloud.com  
Online Meeting Time: Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm  
Online Meeting Dates: 2/25, 3/18, 4/8, 4/29 (On-campus opening session on 2/3, 12:45-2:00 pm, Willamette A, lunch provided)

Professor Bio: Dr. Swoboda is an associate professor at Fuller Seminary and Portland Seminary, as well as an affiliate professor at Kilns College. He also served for ten years as the lead pastor at Theophilus, an urban church in Portland. He has written books on ecological theology, Pentecostal studies, and Christian living. He teaches a number of courses on theology, biblical studies and virtuous leadership.

Facilitator Bio: Shawn has been teaching the church for well over 17 years (in various capacities). His family began attending Village in March 2014. He currently works for a wholesale nursery and teaches online philosophy courses at Ashford University. He has also served as a pastor at a small farm church in Damascus, Oregon, and as an adjunct professor for several different schools.

### Course Description

This course looks at the heart of leadership. Character, Virtue and Wisdom has long been seen as necessary foundations for lasting and effective leadership. Students will be exposed to historic and philosophical thinking on the connections between virtue and leadership as well as explore the deep biblical connections between character and leadership. This course is also designed for self-exploration and assessment whereby students can identify and focus on areas of strength and weakness in their own leadership styles. The study of leadership, regardless of context must address the person of the leader as an 'object' worthy of study. By making the leader herself an object, the study will need to explore ways in which human character has been described and the way in which the self can be understood within and in relation to modern society. Because of the theological nature of the program, classical approaches to character and virtue and their modern interpreters will be brought into conversation with Jewish and Christian sources, both academic and biblical.

### Intended Learning Outcomes

- Students should demonstrate a knowledge of the intersection between leadership, virtue, and wisdom;
- Students should be able to articulate how character is a necessary element of Christian leadership;
- Students should gain a familiarity with a broad range of literature and be able to articulate the place that certain pieces fall within a classical and theological account of virtue and wisdom;
- Students should begin to develop their own arguments and opinions with regard to Christian thinking on virtue and character.
- Students should gain and develop an appreciation for the diversity of contexts and perspectives which shape the character of leaders in our contemporary context.
- Students should know and understand strategies for forming character in themselves and those they lead and with whom they are in community.

### Required Course Texts (Please purchase on your own)

- *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership*, Gary L. McIntosh & Samuel D. Rima
- *Lessons in Leadership: A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible*, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
- *Courage & Calling: Embracing Your God Given Potential*, Gordon T. Smith
- *A Glorious Dark*, A.J. Swoboda
- *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*, Dallas Willard

## Course Requirements

To successfully receive credit for this class towards the completion of the VU certificate requirements, students must receive a final numerical grade of 75%. The individual class requirements are:

**Reading (40%)** – Reading assignments are indicated in the course schedule section of this syllabus and should be completed *prior* to watching the corresponding module’s lecture videos. Please purchase the required texts on your own. Students will be asked to self-report what percentage of each module’s reading they were able to complete on time.

**Video Lectures (30%)** – Lecture videos are made available through Kilns College’s Canvas online classroom system. They will be released on a module-by-module basis according to our course schedule. Students are asked to view all the lecture videos for a given module, and post comments on the lecture discussion board for that module, *prior* to the online class meeting for that module. (Which specific lecture video you are to respond to on the discussion board will be determined by the class facilitator; they are indicated by “DB” in the course schedule below.) For the discussion board, each student is asked to submit the following:

- One paragraph comment on “*What point from the lecture was most interesting or relevant for you and why? What is its practical benefit or application for you?*”
- One paragraph comment on “*What point from the lecture was most challenging for you or difficult to understand and why?*”
- One detailed reply to one of the comments from another student.

**Discussion Meetings (30%)** – There will be periodic required online discussion meetings for each module, led by the class facilitator. These are designed to provide an opportunity to engage and discuss the material for that module. (They are not meant to be additional lectures.) In cases where a student must miss a session, they will have until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day following the live meeting to watch a recording of the meeting (posted to Canvas the next morning) and offer one paragraph responses on the discussion board for that video to each of the following questions:

- *What point from the class discussion stood out to you and why? Or, what additional point would you have liked to have contributed from the reading and lectures?*
- *What lingering, substantive question do you have about the material for this module?*

## Using the Online Canvas Platform

Populi Login: kilns.populiweb.com  
Canvas Login: kilnscollege.instructure.com

Note that when you log into Canvas and go to the “Dashboard”, you should see two classes listed. One is the actual VU class you’re enrolled in. The other is called “Canvas Overview for VU Students”. If you enter the latter and then click on “Modules” you will see several easy, short instructional videos on how to use the Canvas system. Please take a look!

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic/Lecture Video	Reading Assignment
Feb. 3	Opening Class Meeting	* None
Feb. 25, Module 1	* Welcome from Prof. Swoboda * Fear in Leadership * <u>Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership (DB)</u> * Leadership & Vulnerability	* McKintosh & Rima, Parts 1-3 * Swoboda, Introduction, Chs. 1-4 * Sacks, Introduction, Genesis
Mar. 18, Module 2	* Rhythms of a Leader * <u>Grace and Truth in Leadership (DB)</u>	* Swoboda, Chs. 5-8 * Sacks, Exo., Lev., Deut. * Smith, Introduction, Chs. 1-4
Apr. 8, Module 3	* Sin and Leadership * <u>Learning the Word “No” (DB)</u>	* Swoboda, Chs. 9-12 * Smith, Chs. 5-12 * Willard, Introduction, Chs. 1-4
Apr. 29, Module 4	* <u>The Holy Spirit in Leadership (DB)</u>	* Swoboda, Chs. 12-15 * Willard, Chs. 5-10 * Bible – John 13