

Leadership TAMIU
Office of Student Affairs
Texas A&M International University

Credits: 0
Prerequisite: Application to Leadership TAMIU
3.2/4.0 GPA
60+ School Credit Hours
Time: 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Location: SC 230
Instructor(s): Gerardo Alva, director of student affairs
Miguel Trevino, associate director of student activities and leadership
Office: Student Center 226
Phone: (956) 326-2280

Course Introduction

Leadership TAMIU is a program specifically designed for upper-division undergraduate students that are ready to take their knowledge and skills to the next level. This program will assist you in building your leadership skills and teamwork abilities through a variety of presentations and workshops that will give you insight on how to be successful in life. Leadership TAMIU will give you the opportunity to listen to proven leaders and participate in an active learning environment surrounded by other leaders at TAMIU.

Course Description

Leadership TAMIU will provide upper-division, undergraduate students the opportunity to learn advanced leadership principals and techniques so that they may be used after the successful completion of their studies. The program is designed in a lecture/discussion format and includes guest speakers throughout the year.

Learning Outcomes

1. Gain personal competencies
2. Develop a sense of personal leadership identity
3. Understand how their personal leadership identity relates to working with others
4. Build communication and problem-solving skills
5. Expand the network of student leaders at TAMIU

Texts

Covey, Stephen R. (1990). *7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change* (1st ed.). Brentwood, TN: Free Press.

Kouzes, James M. and Posner, Barry Z. (2007). *The Leadership Challenge* (4th ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Imprint.

Assignments

Current Events and Issues

Leaders need to be cognizant of current historical, political, and social issues at the local, state, national and global level. As such, students are expected to review headlines in the *Laredo Morning Times* and the *CNN Website* in order to be aware of and discuss local, state, national and global issues.

Please note: the Laredo Morning Times is available free of charge at the Killam Library.

Group Service Project

This is a community or campus service activity planned and implemented by the group. Through this project, students should demonstrate their ability to work together as a team, while improving the quality of life on the TAMIU campus or in the Laredo Community. Assessment for grading purposes includes evaluation by fellow team members, the course instructor, and the project manager/advisor.

Reflective Journal

Regularly writing about our learning in a journal or logbook is a process that will enable us to become reflective learners and leaders. The journal is parallel to the field book or laboratory notes of the scientist. We not only record what happened or what was observed, but in addition, we can record a tentative hypothesis or the development of new understanding. Reflective writing has the potential to provide us with a systematic approach to our development as a reflective, critical and constructive learner and leader. Our journal can provide an opportunity to make explicit our position on a range of issues of personal significance. Used effectively, reflective writing will support us to make a personal sense of a diverse set of experiences -- this is particularly important when learning and leading is to be incorporated into every day practice. A reflective journal assists the reflective process. Minimum number of entries required = 10.

Leader of the Day

This assignment gives you the opportunity to practice your leadership skills, encourages self-expression, develops confidence in speaking before the group, and helps build bonds between class members. Each class member will be required to sign up to be "leader of the day." As leader of the day, each student begins that class session with a thought or exercise that provides insight into leadership and/or personal development and is considered a significant learning opportunity. This exercise must, in some way, be related to the textbook and class discussion for the day. Past leaders of the day have shared leadership readings and/or quotes, or engaged the rest of the group in trust initiatives, yoga relaxation exercises, etc. Approximately 15-20 minutes of class time each week will be devoted to the leader of the day.

Attendance and Participation

Because each of you is already a community, school, sports, or church leader, focusing on the (good) habits of leadership is important. One habit is dependability. For example, this means regular attendance at class sessions one evening a week and participation in class, group, and outside activities and assignments. Another is trust -- trusting the process and trusting the other members of your class. Your attendance and participation are essential to your learning and to the overall success of the course (especially since this course is held only once a week). Students are expected to keep up with assigned reading and to actively participate in classroom discussion.

Students with extended illnesses or problems that relate to attendance should meet with the instructor, rather than risk loss of points.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

Classroom Behavior

The University encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The University will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. 1) When you borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words, you must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism. 2) When you also borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism. 3) When you present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own, you have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2010, sixth edition of the *Manual of The American Psychological Association* (APA):

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. *Each* time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text.

The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the Discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications. (pp. 15-16)

Consult the Writing Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the *Manual of the APA* or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for guidance on proper documentation. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

Penalties for Plagiarism: Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse.

Penalties for Cheating: Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."

Student Right of Appeal: Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within five (5) business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student. The *Student Handbook* provides details.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

September 9	Review of Program Expectations and Requirements Sign-Up for Leader of the Day Topic of the Week: What Leaders Do and What Constituents Expect Homework: Read Credibility is the Foundation of Leadership and Part 2 – Model the Way
September 23	<i>Topic of the Week:</i> Find your Voice and Set the Example Leader of the Day Homework: Read Part 3 – Inspire a Shared Vision
October 7	Guest Speaker: Steve Reifenberg (Author) 3pm in USC 101
October 7	<i>Topic of the Week:</i> Envision the Future and Enlist Others Leader of the Day Determine Group Service Project Homework: Read Part 4 – Challenge the Process
October 21	No Class – Mid-Semester Break

October 28	<i>Topic of the Week:</i> Search for Opportunities and Take Risks Leader of the Day Homework: Read Part 5 – Enable Others to Act
November 18	<i>Topic of the Week:</i> Foster Collaboration and Strengthen Others Leader of the Day Homework: Read Part 6 – Encourage the Heart
December 2	<i>Topic of the Week:</i> Recognize Contributions and Celebrate Values/Victories Leader of the Day
December	Group Service Project
January 20 - 22	Leadership TAMIU Retreat Homework: Read Part 7 – Leadership for Everyone
February 3	<i>Topic of the Week:</i> Leadership is Everyone’s Business Leader of the Day
February 17	Guest Speaker (TBA) Introduction by Leader of the Day
March 2	Guest Speaker (TBA) Introduction by Leader of the Day
March 16	No Class – Spring Break
March 30	Guest Speaker (TBA) Introduction by Leader of the Day
April 6	No Class – Easter Holiday
April 20	Guest Speaker (TBA) Introduction by Leader of the Day
April 28	Dinner and Recognition at University Life Awards