Instructor: Dennis McCunney, Ph.D.
Office: Old Cafeteria 1611
Telephone: 252-328-2802
E-Mail: mccunneyw@ecu.edu
Office hours: Available by appointment

**Textbook and Required Readings:**

Additional readings and video clips may be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Description:**
The purpose of this course is to introduce leadership as a concept, behavior, and set of relationships. You will gain a broad understanding of the history and origins of leadership, theoretical approaches to leadership, and the essence of contemporary leadership. As you master the fundamentals of the concepts, you will be encouraged to test your own abilities to apply these concepts to your roles on campus and to your other life experiences. You will learn how to use these concepts to be effective student leaders capable of building an inclusive community on an increasingly diverse college campus.

This course examines the traits, skills, styles, and approaches of leadership. By the end of the course, you should be able to identify the different dimensions of leadership; analyze the strengths and weaknesses of various leaders; and apply leadership principles to specific case studies and situations. As you progress through the semester, try to remember that in the absence of leadership, organizations, businesses, governments, and other institutions cannot perform efficiently. The ability to lead others, therefore, is a critical skill – one that employers and others in positions of authority value highly in our increasingly competitive world.

Effective and ethical leadership, however, often seems in short supply as scandals and corruption in the political and business world too often illustrate. It is the goal of this course to help you understand and gain the knowledge necessary to be an ethical leader who can not only navigate through today’s global marketplace, but can more importantly, shape and influence society for the better.

**Course Philosophy:**
Introduction to Leadership Studies is designed to inspire, teach, and engage you in the process of leadership learning. The course will be interactive with student participation and outside class involvement as critical components to the learning process. Leadership learning is therefore an active process from the instructor’s and from the learner’s points of view.

The instructor and student have a strong mutual responsibility to one another. Obligations of the instructor include (a) being knowledgeable and current on the subject matter, (b) planning and
providing quality learning experiences, (c) evaluating work fairly and promptly, and (d) assisting you to meet the course objectives and to fulfill personal goals. Student obligations include (a) preparing and completing assignments in a timely manner, (b) actively participating in the learning process, and (c) expressing needs to the instructor through appropriate and timely communication.

**Meeting Time & Location:**
This course is an asynchronous online course utilizing Blackboard (BB). All students are automatically enrolled in BB after registration and can access the course via BB using their ECU ID and password. The class syllabus, teaching resources, documents, homework, and any additional assignments will be posted on BB. Make sure your account is up and working. Check your BB class postings at least twice a week. All email communication will be shared through your ECU email address. Please make sure that you check your email frequently for updates and information about this course.

**Learning Objectives:**
At the end of the course, you will be able to:
- Articulate what you’ve learned about the field of leadership, its supporting theories, and complexities of the leadership process.
- Recognize the importance leadership plays in groups, organizations, communities, and societies.
- Distinguish between the historical views of leadership and the contemporary, post-industrial leadership paradigm.
- Complete a visioning process utilizing a foundation of leadership theory and a method of introspection, peer review, and personal reflection.
- Recognize and effectively utilize different leadership styles and identify ways to most effectively utilize a preferred style.
- Relate out-of-class experiences to educational goals and personal leadership goals.
- Analyze the role of the organization as it relates to leadership practices within organizations.
- Critically analyze past and current leadership learning experiences, and examine the motivation and purposes that drive your involvement in the leadership process.
- Explore questions such as: who are you as a leader, what do you want to accomplish, what issues are you passionate about, and what is your personal leadership philosophy and paradigm?
- Develop the skills necessary to be effective in the leadership contexts of individual and in partnerships including: self-awareness, critical thinking, communication, visioning/goal setting, relationship building, and ethics.
- Apply leadership theory to practice and enhance your own leadership skills, experience and knowledge.

**EVALUATION**

Your final grade in the course will be based on discussion board participation and your performance on four exams. The weight assigned to each is:
(1) Exam 1 = 20% of your overall grade.
(2) Exam 2 = 20% of your overall grade.
(3) Exam 3 = 20% of your overall grade.
(4) Exam 4 = 20% of your overall grade.
(5) Discussion board participation is worth the remaining 20% of your overall grade.

Course averages will be converted to letter grades using the scale below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 and above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 to 92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 to 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83 to 86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 to 82</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 to 79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73 to 76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 to 69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 to 66</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion Board Participation**
Leadership is inherently a relational process that occurs among individuals. Within this course, each of us has a responsibility to create a dynamic learning environment in which we have the opportunity to understand, acquire, practice, reflect, and apply our leadership knowledge, skills, and values. Each member of the class is an expert in his or her personal experience; we must be present to share this with our peers and learn from each other. In addition, reactions, interpretations, and analysis of course readings are critical components of a learning environment. **Each member of the class will be expected to participate fully in the online discussions every week.** The discussions will be graded and must be completed to fulfill the requirements of the course. Most will deal with summarizing and critiquing readings, analyzing current events, and evaluating leadership frameworks. Contributions should be meaningful, thought provoking, and substantive; they should not be long winded. You are expected to present solid content and convey your message using appropriate grammar, syntax, punctuation, and language. You should use APA format for any written assignments. Proper citations will be expected for all material that is taken directly or paraphrased from another source. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** **Extensions may be a possibility, but only if discussed BEFORE the due date;** extensions on or after the due date will not be an option, unless in an extreme emergency.

**Exam Proctoring:**
All exams will be administered through the East Carolina University Distance Education Proctoring Center. The Center offers test proctoring services to students enrolled in distance education.
classes at East Carolina University, and other universities within the University of North Carolina system. The ECU DE Proctoring Center is a state of the art facility that ensures integrity in the proctoring and examination processes. Visit the Proctoring Center website to login: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/deproctoring/index.cfm.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**
“As members of the East Carolina University community, we have inherited the core pillars of leadership that must be upheld which include knowledge, relationship, ethics, wellbeing and service. Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of an ECU degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.” Please refer to the “Academic Integrity Policy” http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/policyhub/academic_integrity.cfm.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**
East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. The telephone number is 252-737-1016. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

**Additional Resources:**

**Everyday Leadership (Day One Option)**
http://www.ted.com/talks/drew_dudley_everyday_leadership?language=en

**Exploring Leadership, Komives, Lucas and McMahon (ECU Joyner Library online)**
Chapter 3- Relational Leadership

**Authentic Leadership Video:**
Brene Brown: The Power of Vulnerability
https://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_on_vulnerability

**Culture and Leadership**
Danger of a Single Story: Chimamanda Adichie
http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en

See attached Course Calendar for assignments and due dates.