I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course emanates from observation and experience demonstrating that advanced social work professionals require leadership knowledge and skills to better understand and meet the challenges of working within complex and diverse urban social settings that address a range of contemporary social service issues. Not all master’s level social workers will take responsibility for formally leading or managing organizations and projects, but informal leaders do emerge and followership is intrinsically a part of the leadership process. This course is built on the integration of leadership, followership and the situation as an essential component of excellence for advanced social work practice.

The purpose of this course is to help students become more effective leaders and to better understand the demands of leadership. Specifically, the course will serve as a guide for interpreting leadership theory and research and fill the gaps between leadership theory and practice. Reviewing the range of leadership definitions, the course defines leadership as “the process of influencing an organized group toward accomplishing its goals”.

subordinates, using delegation, teamwork and leading in a diverse and multicultural environment. Finally, the course attempts to teach a specific set of personal, interpersonal, and group leadership skills grounded in behavioral science theory and research that are essential for a successful career in advanced social work practice.

Drawing upon the fields of social psychology and organizational behavior, the course examines the following major principles of leadership:

- Leadership is both rational and emotional
- Leadership is related to followership
- Leadership is related to the task or situation
- Leadership is not all common sense
- Leaders are born but they are also made
- Leadership is both art and science

The course builds on macro content taught in social work courses, and theories of individual and group behavior presented in foundation courses on Human Behavior in the Social Environment.

II. **Course Objectives**

1) Analyze leadership behavioral characteristics and styles, including power, ethics and values in diverse, multicultural environments.

2) Knowledge and analysis of comparative leadership theories and leadership research.

3) Develop the following basic leadership skills:
   a. Communicating
   b. Goal setting
   c. Managing stress, burnout and time.
   d. Conducting meetings
   e. Building effective relationships with peers and superiors
   f. Presenting self

4) Develop the following advanced leadership skills:
   b. Team building
   c. Diagnosing and solving performance problems in individuals, groups, and organizations
   d. Empowering self and others
   e. Motivating
   f. Delegating

5) Assessing self as a leader.
III. Course Format

Lectures, experiential exercises, role plays, videos, power-point presentations, overheads, instrumentation and guest lectures (if available) will comprise the delivery format for the course. The course will be taught from the perspective that students will be engaged throughout their lives in organizational contexts and that understanding leadership will be useful, whether they are internal employees, managers or directors or external advocates or consultants attempting to affect the setting and the community. This practical orientation drives the structure of the course which will involve experiencing and participating in activities that provide insights, knowledge and practical skills about leadership in organizations and in social service contexts.

The lectures are designed to supplement and go beyond the assigned readings. Questions about the reading and lectures are welcomed, but expect lectures to extend, provide insight and describe actual examples of the application of concepts covered in the readings and lectures.

Last, as a class we will be flexible. Although we intend to follow the structure of the syllabus and course outline, like any good practitioners we will change, adapt, adjust and be resourceful in order to conduct deeper explorations of pertinent topics, accommodate the schedules of speakers, the availability of videos and other equipment and so forth.

IV. COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING

All students are expected to regularly attend class and be on time. A student with more than two unexcused absences during the course of this class may receive a no credit. A student who is tardy three or more times to class may receive a grade of no credit. If a student receives a no credit grade in this seminar, they will be required to repeat this class.

Class grades will be based on the following:

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm paper</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Session 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sessions 9-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final take-home exam</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Date following study days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Each Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class grades will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 – 92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 – 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83 – 86</td>
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<td>80 – 82</td>
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<td>77 – 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>73 – 76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 – 72</td>
<td>C-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CLASS PARTICIPATION (No more than 10%)**

**Written Assignments**

**Midterm paper:** Conduct an analysis of the use of power by leaders in your field placement or agency. What sources are used and how are they used. Besides using your texts, including research-based and scholarly articles will enhance your presentation (use the APA style). Please double space and use a 12-point type; the length of the paper should be approximately four to seven pages (not including the reference page). A written description of this assignment will be posted on blackboard and will give you more information about the assignment. We will also discuss the assignment in class. The midterm paper is due session 8.

*The midterm addresses and contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3e, 3f, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f*

**Oral Presentation:** Students will form teams. Teams are typically comprised of three to five students (depending on the size of the class, team size may vary). Each team is to decide on a topic relevant to the course. A list of topics is included at the end of the syllabus to stimulate your thinking about the presentation. You are by no means limited to the topics on the list and it is strongly recommended that you follow your specific interests about leadership. Class time will be devoted to having you meet with your groups and prepare for the presentation. I will circulate among the groups and help you with the creation and development of your presentation. Team presentations typically run five to seven minutes per member. Each team member must contribute to the development of the presentation and participate in the presentation; no free riding! The presentation must inform the class about some topic relevant to leadership. We will discuss this further in class. Instructor approval is required for your presentation topic and I will probably want to coordinate my lectures to complement the team’s presentation. Teams will present during sessions 9-15.

*The team oral presentation addresses and contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f & 5*
**Final Take Home Exam** You will be given a final take home exam around the 10th session of the course (give or take a week). The exam will consist of a series of essay questions. You will be asked to choose and answer certain questions; you will have some choice about which questions to answer, but your instructor will reserve the right to require you to answer specific questions from among the series of questions. These essay questions may ask you to compare and contrast certain approaches to leadership styles, discuss the advantage and disadvantages of participation and teams, address the causes and resolution of conflict and so forth. You can expect the total final exam to run approximately 7-12 pages and you should incorporate current literature and research in your answer. Follow the APA format for citing and referencing material. The term paper is due the day after study days. Grade penalties will be assessed for late work. A detailed written description of this assignment will be posted on blackboard and will be discussed in class.

*The final take home exam addresses and contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f & 5*

**Participation:** Students are expected to attend and participate constructively in class activities and discussions. If you miss two classes, you may do a make-up through a written assignment; see me, if you desire this option. If you miss more than this, then you will have missed a substantial portion of the course and will have compromised this percentage of your grade and jeopardize receiving credit for the course.

*The participation of students in class activities and discussions contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f & 5*

**V. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend every class and to remain in class for the duration of the session. Failure to attend class or arriving late may impact your ability to achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. Students are expected to notify the instructor by telephone or email of any anticipated absence or reason for tardiness.

University of Southern California policy permits students to be excused from class, without penalty, for the observance of religious holy days. This policy also covers scheduled final examinations which conflict with students’ observance of a holy day. Students must make arrangements in advance to complete class work which will be missed, or to reschedule an examination, due to holy days observance.

**VI. COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES**
Students are expected to attend class, complete the assigned readings in preparation for class discussions and as a foundation supporting lectures and class activities. The evaluation of classroom participation will be based on making contributions that are constructive and considerate. Oral presentations will be evaluated on the basis of being prepared, informative and delivered in a manner, which holds the interest of the audience. Written assignments will be evaluated on the quality of the ideas presented and the ability to use and cite pertinent literature correctly (use APA publication manual, 5th Ed.). Written assignments should be clear and concise, well organized, and reflect an integrated understanding of the reading assignments, lectures, outside sources of literature and relevant experiences and information. Assignments are to be submitted on time and there will be grade penalties for assignments submitted past due dates. University Polices concerning academic honesty will be strictly enforced.

VII. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


There will be additional readings available on the SOWK 611 Leadership Website:

[http://sowkmedia.usc.edu/sowk611/](http://sowkmedia.usc.edu/sowk611/)

Recommended Reading:


A list of the leadership text holdings in USC libraries will also be posted on-line

VIII. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. *Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible.* DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

IX. EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

To receive information, call main number (213)740-2711, press #2. “For recorded announcements, events, emergency communications or critical incident information.”

To leave a message, call (213) 740-8311
For additional university information, please call (213) 740-9233
Or visit university website; http://emergency.usc.edu

If it becomes necessary to evacuate the building, please go to the following locations carefully and using stairwells only. Never use elevators in an emergency evacuation.

University Park Campus
- MRF – Lot B
- SWC – Lot B
- WPH – McCarthy Quad
- VKC – McCarthy Quad

City Center
- Front of the building (12th & Olive)

Orange County Campus
- Faculty Parking Lot

Skirball Campus
- Front of building

Do not re-enter the building until given the “all clear” by emergency personnel.

X. COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Session 1) January 15: Introduction to course and explanation of syllabus. Historical overview of approaches to understanding leadership. Basic concepts in leadership. Relationship of leadership to management.

For session read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: Chapters 1
Read Northouse Chapter 1

Recommended Reading: Kouzes & Posner: Chapter 1

Session 1 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1 & 2

Session 2) January 22: Learning, Developing and Assessing leadership. Trait approaches to leadership

For session 2 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: Chapters 2, 3 & 7
Read Northouse Chapter 2
Complete leadership skill self-assessment distributed by instructor
Recommended Reading: Kouzes & Posner: Chapter 2

Session 2 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3e, 3f & 5

Session 3) January 29: Leadership and Self Awareness. Leadership Behaviors, Skills and an approach to leadership styles: The Leadership Grid
For session 3 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: Chapter 4, 8 & pp. 431-437
Read Northouse Chapter 3 & 4
Complete handout on the leadership grid
Recommended Reading: Kouzes & Posner: Chapter 3

Session 3 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3e, 4d, 4f & 5

Session 4) February 5: Leading and Motivating: Content and Process theories of motivation; Path goal theory of leadership

For session 4 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: Chapter 9 & pp. 378-385
Read Northouse Chapter 7


Recommended Reading: Kouzes & Posner: Chapters 4

Session 4 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3b, 3e, 4d, 4e, 4f & 5

Session 5) February 12: Leadership, power and influence. The sources of power, gaining power and using power effectively and ethically.

For session 5 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: Chapter 5 & pp. 132-150
Read Sager (2006): Sources of Power on-line
Read Northouse pp. 7-11
Recommended Reading: Kouzes & Posner: Chapter 7 & 8

Session 5 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3e, 4a, 4d, 4e & 5

Session 6) February 19: Empowerment, Coaching and Delegating:

For session 6 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: pp.445-451, pp. 481-485 & pp. 530-542
Recommended Reading: Kouzes & Posner: Chapter 9 & 10


Session 6 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4d, 4e & 5
Session 7) February 26: Communicating effectively, conducting meetings and making effective presentations.

For session 7 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: pp.437-455
Recommended Reading: Kouzes & Posner: Chapter 5 & 6

Session 7 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 3a, 3d, 3e, 3f, 4b, & 5

Session 8) March 4: Participative Management and Group decision making.

For session 8 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: Chapter 10
Read Northouse Chapter 10
Recommended Reading: Kouzes & Posner: Chapter 11

Session 8 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f & 5

Session 9) March 11: Team Building and High Performance Teams.

For session 9 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: pp. 491-518

Recommended Reading: Read Kouzes & Posner: Chapter 12
Student presentations begin on session 9 and will run through session 15.

Session 9 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f & 5

Spring Break: March 17—23

Session 10) March 25: Leader-member exchange (LMX) theory and Psychodynamic approaches to leadership

For session 10 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: pp. 22-25
Read Northouse Chapter 8 & 11

Session 10 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3c, 3e, 3f, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4f & 5

Session 11) April 1: Situational and Contingency approaches to leadership—changing styles, situations and leaders.

For session 11 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: Chapters 11 & 12
Read Northouse Chapter 5 & 6

Session 11 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3e, 3f, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f & 5

Session 12) April 8: The causes of conflict, managing and resolving conflict.
For session 12 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: pp. 486-498


Session 12 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3c 3e, & 5

Session 13) April 15: Transformational Leadership and Leading Change.
For session 13 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: Chapter 13
Read Northouse Chapter 9


Session 13 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 4a, 4b, 4c & 5

Session 14) April 22: Leadership, culture and diversity. Women and Leadership
For session 14 read Northouse chapters 12 & 13


Session 14 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3e, 3f, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f & 5
**Session 15** April 29: Advanced leadership skills, reducing stress and mitigating job burnout. Time management. Leadership: values and ethics. Student presentations end.

For session 15 read Hughes, Ginnett & Curphy: Chapter 6 & Part V: Basic and Advanced Leadership Skills
Northouse Chapter 14


Recommended Reading: Read Kouzes & Posner: Chapter 13

*Session 15 contributes to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f & 5*

**Study Days:** May 3—6

**Final Paper Due May 8**

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**Jon Simon Sager, Ph.D.**
Some ideas to stimulate your thoughts on leadership topics for oral presentations

Transformational leadership
Leadership and the creation of community organizations
Leaders and core groups
Leadership at different stages of organization development or life cycles
Leading Teams
Transformational vs. Transactional leadership
Leadership and developing a vision
Leadership and inspiring followers to help enact the vision
Leadership in cutback milieus or other crisis
Leadership during emergencies
Leadership of social agencies during a disaster
Leading the turn around of an organization
Leading volunteers
Leading a diverse work force
The leader’s role in change
Leading change
Leading social movements
Leading large agencies, leading small ones, contrasting leadership of large & small agencies
Leadership in public, private, public vs. private etc.
Transition of leadership
Leadership challenges in the 21st century
Leadership and ethnicity, race, age, gender, culture, other characteristics (this can involve looking at leaders along these dimensions or looking at the cross sectional issues, such as a younger person leading and older person or vice versa, educational discrepancies between leaders and follows, ethnic and racial differences among leaders and followers and so forth).
Leadership and Ethics
Leadership and Politics
Succession of Leadership
Terms of the Succession of Leadership
Executive Development
Leadership in emerging markets or developing countries
Global Leadership