IN243W 21st Century Leadership: Public, Connected, and Adaptive

Instructor: Kris Stache
Required, MDiv students (typically 2nd-year). Two semester hours.
Spring 2026 will be offered to synchronous zoom and asynchronous students only

DESCRIPTION:
Students in this course will consider how they see themselves as ministry leaders in relation to the Gospel, other individuals, the faith community, and the wider public. This course cultivates personal leadership skills, capacities, and assets for leadership.

OBJECTIVES:
1. To articulate from a Christian theological perspective, leadership as gospel centered and publicly oriented.
2. To integrate one's own vision for public Christian leadership in light of the Triune God's mission in and through congregations and communities (agencies, organizations, and institutions).
3. To identify, affirm, and further develop one's gifts and skills for ministry, and empower others to identify, affirm, and develop their own skills and gifts for ministry.

SEMINARY OUTCOMES:
- Interprets reality and relationships in biblically and theologically resonant ways.
- Leads with confidence and fosters team building, collegiality, and mutual edification.
- Builds respectful connections with ecclesial, interreligious and secular partners.

PROCEDURE:
A combination of lecture, class discussion, assigned reading, and personal reflection will guide our shared learning. Regular attendance and active participation in all class work is expected.

EVALUATION:
Students will be evaluated on several short writing assignments and class participation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1992.
- Chi, Uli. *The Wise Leader*. Eerdmans Publishing CO, 2024.
- Beaumont, Susan. *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season.* Roman & Littlefield, 2019.

Additional Articles as Assigned