

## MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

### Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

MN5500 Essentials for Excellence in Ministry Leadership, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

This course is a study of the Biblical, historical, theoretical, and personal foundations of leadership. It includes a study of organizational planning, structure, and processes. It emphasizes the importance of a leader's character, discusses methods for personal and spiritual assessment, and analyzes strategies to develop leadership competencies for ministry in diverse settings.

### Course Objectives

**After completing this course, you will be able to...**

1. Build a solid theological foundation for your ministry leadership thinking and practice through an examination of selected passages of Scripture on leadership precepts, principles, and patterns.
2. Develop a sound conceptual framework of leadership by reviewing some of the classic and current literature addressing personal and organizational.
3. Glean transferable lessons and insights from the personal and professional experience of seasoned leaders through direct and indirect interaction.
4. Integrate applications from foundational scriptural themes, insights from historical/contemporary literature, observations from life and contemporary leaders into your personal and ministry leadership practice.

### Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Being Leaders: The Nature of Authentic Christian Leadership*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2003.

Banks, Robert J., and Bernice M. Ledbetter. *Reviewing Leadership: A Christian Evaluation of Current Approaches*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2004.

### Assignments

**Guideline for the Discussion Board:** Post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11: 59pm CT).

**Standard for Written Papers:** All papers must be in Turabian style. Each page should be approximately 300 words, 12-pt. Times New Roman font on double-spaced lines with 1" margins. (Therefore, a 2-page paper is approximately 600 words; a 3-page paper is approximately 900 words, etc.) Here is a guide to Turabian style: [http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian\\_citationguide.html](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)

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**1-1 A Christian Leader Audit:** Take the *Christian Leader Audit* in Appendix A and reflect on the results by writing a paragraph detailing your score and your thoughts on your fitness of leadership. Talk to a trusted person in your life about the results and summarize in one paragraph their response to your score and answer what you learned from this discussion. (1 page total)

**1-2 Resources for Studying Leadership in the Early Church:** Generate a bibliography of books (5), journal articles (5), logos resources (4), and internet sites (3) that detail key graduate level resources for studying leadership in the early church. Follow the proper Turabian bibliographic format (and draw from the knowledge gained from the **Introduction to Theological Research and Digital Literacy** course). See Appendix B for a model to follow but note none of those resources may be used in your bibliography. (1 page total)

**2-1 Servant Leader Audit:** Take the *Servant Leader Audit* in Appendix D and reflect on the results by writing a paragraph detailing your score and your thoughts on whether or not you could be described as a servant leader. Ask a seasoned leader you trust to complete the Servant Audit and evaluate/rate you on your level of servant leadership. In one paragraph, compare the results and note any discrepancies and reflect on what may have caused them. (1 page total)

**2-2 Perspectives on Leadership:** Compose a chart that highlights the biblical, historical, and contemporary perspectives on leadership. This chart should detail what you think are the most important ideas, traditions, theories from each of the three areas/perspectives. Also, include three bibliographic items at the bottom of your chart for further advanced study on this topic. (1 page total)

**3-1 Leadership Credibility:** Take the *Credibility Leader Audit* in Appendix E and reflect on the results by writing a paragraph describing your thoughts on the results. Ask a different seasoned leader from **Assignment 2-1** to describe their perspective on your credibility as a leader (do not have them take the audit). After receiving his/her reflections compare and contrast the findings and highlight any potential areas that need further attention. (1 page total)

**3-2 Foundations for Ministry Leadership Outline:** Produce an outline paper that details your theological foundation for ministry leadership. Your paper will have three headings: (a) scriptural precepts; (b) scriptural principles; and (c) scriptural patterns. You should include at least three statements that support each of the three topics by including appropriate definitions, principles, and scriptural references. Draw from the earlier readings from the course as well as your own outside research. (2 pages total)

**4-1 Seasoned Leader:** Take the battery of assessments from Appendices F-L and write a summary of what you discovered. Share this with a seasoned leader and ask for suggestions for action points and applications going forward. Summarize these transferable lessons and insights. (1 page total)

**4-2 Application Paper:** Write an application paper that describes your leadership profile (spiritual gifts, natural gifts/abilities, passions, character, relational skills, and task skills) and the specific ways you can apply this information to your current ministry context. (3 pages total)

**5-1 Leadership Style:** Take the *Leadership Style Inventory* in Appendix M and then write a short composite that summarizes what you have discovered about your leadership style. Using the information from Malphurs, Chapter 5 describe your best leadership context. Summarize your strengths and weaknesses based on your primary and secondary styles. **Conclude the paper by answering this question:** What are you going to do with this information? (2 pages total)

**5-2 Followership:** Compose a chart that details the guidelines for a proper understanding of followers. This chart should include a definition of followers, a way to determine follower responsiveness, and the ways to handle opposition from followers. Include further bibliographic resources for advanced study for each of these headings (2 resources each, all of which should come from the last 10 years) (1 page total).

**6-1 Leadership in Diverse Settings:** Take the *Personal and Church Core Values* series of audits from Appendices O-R and then write a short summary of the way your core values and your ministry setting align (or do not align). What does this tell you about your current setting? Are you perfectly aligned or is there a setting mismatch? Come to a conclusion about your current setting, is it sustainable or is there a need for a change? (2 pages total)

**6-2 Mentor Interviews:** Construct a paper that addresses the way faithfulness, integrity, and service are crucial to effective ministry leadership in both personal and professional areas. This paper will have two parts: the **first part** reflects a retelling of a direct interview with a seasoned leader while the **second part** reflects your research into the writings/teachings of a mentor from afar (i.e. a leadership author that you do not personally know). (4 pages total)

**7-1 Conceptual Framework for Ministry Leadership:** Write a paper surveying your conceptual framework for ministry leadership. The paper will have two parts: (1) **Part One** draws from classic literature and should include subsections on personal leadership and organizational leadership; (2) **Part Two** builds on current leadership literature and also has two subsections: personal leadership and organizational leadership. (3 pages total)

**7-2 Essentials for Excellence in Ministry Leadership:** Design a one page chart that lays out in bullet form transferable lessons (principles), insights, action points, and application points from the course readings. (1 page total)

**7-3 Excellence in Ministry Leadership Bible Study:** Produce a Bible study of key passages that highlight key precepts, principles, and patterns. Design this Bible study as a small group study that is designed to teach a group of leaders in a local church. (3 pages total)

**Assessments**

<b>Assessments (# in parentheses)</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Discussions (6 posts with 2 responses per post)	<b>12%</b>
Assignment 1-1 A Christian Leader Audit	<b>3%</b>
Assignment 1-2 Resources for Studying Leadership in the Early Church	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 2-1 Servant Leader Audit	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 2-2 Perspectives on Leadership	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 3-1 Leadership Credibility	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 3-2 Foundations for Ministry Leadership Outline	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 4-1 Seasoned Leader	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 4-2 Application Paper	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 5-1 Leadership Style	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 5-2 Followership	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 6-1 Leadership in Diverse Settings	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 6-2 Mentor Interviews	<b>10%</b>
Assignment 7-1 Conceptual Framework for Ministry Leadership	<b>10%</b>
Assignment 7-2 Essentials for Excellence in Ministry Leadership	<b>5%</b>
Assignment 7-3 Excellence in Ministry Leadership Bible Study	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage Equivalent</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work

## Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at [my.moody.edu](http://my.moody.edu). If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at <http://library.moody.edu>. Here are additional tutorials on how to use the Crowell Library:

- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **Overview**" - [http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video\\_Files/BI-5528\\_Koehler\\_Overview.wmv](http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video_Files/BI-5528_Koehler_Overview.wmv)
- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **References**" - [http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video\\_Files/BI-5528\\_Koehler\\_Reference.wmv](http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video_Files/BI-5528_Koehler_Reference.wmv)
- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **eBooks**" - [http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video\\_Files/BI-5528\\_Koehler\\_eBooks.wmv](http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video_Files/BI-5528_Koehler_eBooks.wmv)
- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **Articles**" - [http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video\\_Files/BI-5528\\_Koehler\\_Articles.wmv](http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video_Files/BI-5528_Koehler_Articles.wmv)

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org). These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars

The final resource that deserves mention here is **iTunes University**. Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunesU from various schools such as Dallas Theological Seminary, Seattle Pacific University, Duke, Yale, Covenant Theological Seminary, and others that may benefit in your studies or understanding of this course.

## Course Copyright Statement

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