

MASTER OF ARTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

OL 500—Critical Thinking

This course is designed to provide a framework for gathering and evaluating the challenges leaders face globally. The need for distinguishing between fact and fiction; sound principles and external biases while developing solid strategies for addressing local, national and global issues has never been greater. Students will be challenged to assess their basis for analyzing information that comes to them and understand the biases of various sources of information in their analysis. They will develop an organized, systematic approach for critically filtering the bombardment of data coming to them as they lead their respective organizations.

OL 501—Biblical Principles For Global Leadership

An examination and analysis of the qualities and practices of the effective Christian leader, particularly across cultural boundaries. This study will be based on principles in Scripture and related literature, with attention to devising a personal philosophy of intercultural leadership.

OL 510—Ethical Leadership In Public Life

A survey of the development of ethical thought, both ancient and modern. Various ethical systems and their proponents, including alternative Christian perspectives, will be covered along with a discussion of contemporary ethical problems.

OL 520—Principled Leading in a State & Local Context

(Nashville)

(Five non-credit seminars conducted over the fall. Required, but no cost to students.)

Special seminars that will consider the particular opportunities and challenges of leading at the state and local government and corporate levels. Leaders from these levels will predominate the course as guest speakers.

OL 530—Organizational Culture

This course builds critical skills and competencies that enable leaders to achieve the mission and vision of their organizations and is designed to help leaders understand why organizational culture matters and how to create, discover, and transform their organizational culture. Topics include interpersonal group behavior, complex organizational behavior, leadership styles, the contribution of communications, and the integrative role of management in organizations.

OL 535—Organizational Communication

This course develops the leader's ability to create and effectively communicate a strategic vision within an organization and understand an individual's impact on others. Students learn to identify and improve self-awareness of communication styles and abilities, and to engage, influence, and motivate employees. Topics will include creating a unified organizational climate and culture, understanding team dynamics, and building strong and enduring teams.

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OL 540—Leading Through Change In A Corporate Context

An examination of change and its relationship to conflict within an organization. This course will focus on enabling leaders to understand, anticipate, and direct change as well as how to handle criticism in their organizations.

OL 545—Conflict Management

This course addresses the human and organizational causes of conflict and how leaders can prevent or limit conflict and its associated damage to mission and relationships. Students will be exposed to various purposes of conflict as well as how to emotionally and spiritually recover from the stress and loss suffered in the struggle.

OL 550—Challenges And Opportunities Of Leading In A National Context

(Washington, D.C.)

A special seminar that will consider the particular opportunities and challenges of leading at the national government and corporate levels. Leaders from these contexts will predominate the course as guest speakers. The course examines aspects of managing a national business or ministry, with particular focus on ethical dilemmas, legal and political considerations, and competitive market forces.

OL 570—Strategic Planning & Financial Analysis

This course is designed to train leaders how to think and plan strategically and to develop budgetary structure and discipline that will enable an organization to implement strategic plans. It is our intention to equip students with practical skills and resources to develop sound strategic plans, prepare budgets and forecasts, and establish financial controls and reporting.

OL 590—Dynamics Of Leading In An International Context

(Jerusalem, Israel)

A special seminar that will consider the particular opportunities and challenges of leading at international government and corporate levels. Leaders from these levels will predominate the course as guest speakers. The course examines strategic aspects of managing a global or multinational business or ministry, with particular focus on cultural dynamics, legal and political considerations, and competitive market forces.

OL 599—Capstone Project

This is a leadership project, selected by the student, that will pertain to a particular opportunity or problem in their organization or ministry. The purpose of the Capstone is to help the student apply the elements of organizational leadership which the student acquired in the program. The development of this project will be conducted throughout the program and will be guided by a professor in the program.