

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE
AGRI 420 - SPRING 2017
School of Agriculture - Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

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and by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Section I will meet Thursday from 10-10:50 a.m. and Section II will meet Thursday from 12-12:50 p.m. Both sections will meet in KH 226. This is a one-semester hour lecture/discussion course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES

AGRI 420 Personal leadership skills will be developed as students explore historical and current views of social, cultural, and technological issues and the associated social changes in agriculture. Styles and roles of leadership in agricultural organizations including group dynamics, conflict resolution, ethical considerations, and communications will be covered. Students should either have completed AGRI 340 or be concurrently enrolled in AGRI 340.

MATERIAL

- Course handouts will be provided as necessary.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Explain the difference between management and leadership.
2. Understand leadership techniques appropriate for a given situation.
3. Recognize opportunities for self-improvement.
4. Understand conflict management.
5. Understand the ethics of leadership.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 14-Early warning grades available on STARS

March 13-17-Spring break, University is closed

Tuesday, May 9-Final – Section I – 10 a.m.

Final – Section II – 1 p.m.

CLASS RULES

Failure to comply with the class rules will result in a loss of one half of a letter grade.

Technology: Cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. are not to be used during class. If, due to medical or public safety concerns, a student needs an exception to this policy he/she should inform the instructor prior to class.

****Stay off your phones and laptops. Consider this your warning.**

Tobacco: Use of tobacco **in any form** is prohibited in university buildings/classrooms.

Talking: Unnecessary side conversations will not be tolerated.

Respect: Please respect the opinions of your classmates during all class discussions and activities.

Do. The. Work.: The more effort you put into this class, the more you will get out of it. This course was designed for you to apply each lesson to your current leadership roles and adapt your leadership style to make you a more effective leader and communicator, as well as learn about yourself in the process. Don't waste the opportunity.
No Whining/Excuses/Complaining: This is on-the-job training for life.

CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important class announcements (cancellations, etc.) will be made via WIU email, WesternOnline, and the WIU text notification system.

ABSENCES

Attendance is required. Excused absences (emergencies, funerals, and illness) should be cleared with the instructor prior to the class either via email or the OARS system. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of participation/attendance points for that day (20 points). All assignments due for that class period should be completed prior to the next class period.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend class and to actively participate in discussions and activities.
Academic Integrity: The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course.
Student Rights and Responsibilities: Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.
Special Accommodations: If you need special accommodations, please feel free to stop by and discuss your needs or contact Disability Support Services at 298-2512.

GRADING POLICY:

The course grade will be based on the following:

Application Papers	700 points	(50 points each)
Activities/Participation/Attendance	480 points	(30 points per class)
Leadership Essay	200 points	
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>300 points</u>	
Total	1680 points	

GRADING SCALE:

93% and above = A
90 – 92 = A-
87 – 89 = B+
83 – 86 = B
80 – 82 = B-
77 – 79 = C+
73 – 76 = C
70 – 72 = C-
67 – 69 = D+
63 – 66 = D
60 – 62 = D-
59 and below = F

**Agriculture Education Majors please note the following:

In accordance with the Illinois State Board of Education certification rules, all candidates seeking teacher certification are required by Western Illinois University to obtain a grade of "C" or better in all directed general education courses, all core courses, and all courses in the option. Note C- is below a C.

APPLICATION PAPERS (50 points each)

Each week you will have a two part paper due. The first section of the application paper will be the answer to a specific case/lesson with questions to answer or how you can apply the lesson to your own life.

The second part will be a brief description of a random act of kindness (RAK) you performed that week. Leading by example is the easiest way to lead. Examples of acts that do and do not count as RAKs can be found on WesternOnline. *Hint: If your RAK involves your family, friends, or roommates, it will not count.*

The following guidelines should be used for all assignments.

- a. All papers are to be single spaced; typed in 12-point font.
- b. All papers are to be turned in at the beginning of class. Please label your paper with your name, class date, and class section.
- c. Answers to questions or problems should be in the order requested.
- d. There is no “correct” answer to many of the questions that will be posed. Papers will be graded based on content, completeness, writing technique, spelling, and grammar. This is a senior level class. All spelling and grammar errors will result in a loss of points.

LEADERSHIP ESSAY (200 points)

Choose a leader to analyze within the context of lessons that we have discussed in class. This is NOT a biography. Consider the topics we have discussed this semester. What makes a person a good leader or a bad leader? Illustrate leadership concepts through examples. You may choose to write about someone from different perspectives: someone who was a strong leader and led a movement for the betterment of his/her followers and society, someone who was a strong leader and led a movement that was detrimental to society (Hitler), someone who was in a position of leadership but failed his/her followers, someone who was not in a position of power/leadership, yet created a following, etc.

- a) Discuss certain events in his/her life that were turning points in their leadership or demonstrated his/her leadership ability.
- b) Your paper should be a minimum of 2 pages, single spaced, 12-point font.
- c) Your paper should be written by you. Plagiarism will result in a zero in this course.
- d) Cite your sources within the paper in MLA format and include a works cited page. You must use a minimum of two reputable sources. NOT Wikipedia.

FINAL (300 points)

Additional information regarding the details of the final will be provided at a later date.

ACCREDITATION

The School of Agriculture is housed in the College of Business and Technology which is accredited by AACSB-International.

NOTICES

Please be advised that this syllabus is tentative. All classes are different and we may or may not be able to address all of the content areas. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.