

**Comm 464: Special Topics in Communication – Leadership Communication**  
**Instructor – Dr. Bill Brantley**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a culminating undergraduate experience (CUE) by an in-depth study of how communication theory intersects with leadership theory. Students will spend the semester studying leadership theory from the communication perspective and gain practical skills to help them develop as leaders in their careers. The final project will be a capstone paper that will aid students in synthesizing leadership theory and communication while guiding students in building a lifelong leadership individual development plan.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this course, students will:

1. Be able to explain the characteristics of the major leadership theories.
2. Be able to describe the roles that communication plays in leadership.
3. Develop their own leadership individual development plan (LIDP) to aid them in their future career.
4. Practice using storytelling and other communication techniques in leading teams, groups, groups, and the public.

**Respect for Diverse Opinions:**

Most students will take this course because they have a strong interest in leadership and will have their own set of beliefs about leadership. For purposes of this course, students need to recognize that there is a diversity of beliefs among their fellow students. The best way to be successful in this course is to agree to disagree and approach leadership theory from an objective viewpoint. Be respectful of other opinions and treat each other with courtesy.

**Required Texts:**

1. *Leadership: A Communication Perspective* (7th Ed.) by Craig E. Johnson. 978-1478635024
2. *Five Stars: The Communication Secrets to Get from Good to Great* by Carmine Gallo. 978-1250155139

**Assignments:**

1. **Leadership Assessments:** Students will be required to take the leadership assessments in Johnson's *Leadership*. Students will not have to disclose the results of the assessment but must supply proof of completion. 10 points for each assessment.
2. **Reflection Journal:** For fourteen weeks, students will write 150 or more words reflecting on their weekly readings. 20 points for reflection essay.
3. **Discussion Board:** For fourteen weeks, students will participate in online discussions with other students concerning leadership and communication topics. 10 points for each weekly contribution (at least two postings) to the discussion boards.
4. **Capstone Paper:** The paper will be 3,000 words and have three sections. The first section is a synthesis of leadership theories covered in the course and the second section is how communication theory applies to leadership. The third section is the student's plan on how they will apply the lessons from the class in their leadership development. 230 points.

**Total Points - 700 points**

**Grading Scale:**

A+ 700 to 679 points	A 678 to 651	A- 650 to 630
B+ 629 to 609	B 608 to 581	B- 580 to 560
C+ 559 to 539	C 538 to 511	C- 510 to 490
D+ 489 to 469	D 468 to 441	D- 440 to 420
F 419 to 0		

**Course Calendar:** The "C#" refers to the chapter in the specified book.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
One	Introduction to Leadership and Communication [Johnson C1 and Gallo C1]	Reflection 1; Discussion Board 1
Two	Leaders and Followers [Johnson C2 and Gallo C2]	Reflection 2; Discussion Board 2
Three	Leadership Theory I [Johnson C3 and Gallo C3]	Reflection 3; Discussion Board 3
Four	Leadership Theory II [Johnson C4 and Gallo C4]	Reflection 4; Discussion Board 4
Five	Power [Johnson C5 and Gallo C5]	Reflection 5; Discussion Board 5
Six	Influence [Johnson C6 and Gallo C6]	Reflection 6; Discussion Board 6
Seven	Leading Groups and Teams [Johnson C7 and Gallo C7]	Reflection 7; Discussion Board 7
Eight	Leading Organizations [Johnson C8 and Gallo C8]	Reflection 8; Discussion Board 8
Nine	Leading the Public [Johnson C9 and Gallo C9]	Reflection 9; Discussion Board 9
Ten	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion [Johnson C10 and Gallo C10]	Reflection 10; Discussion Board 10
Eleven	Ethics [Johnson C11 and Gallo C11]	Reflection 11; Discussion Board 11
Twelve	Growing as a Leader [Johnson C12 and Gallo 12]	Reflection 12; Discussion Board 12
Thirteen	Leading in a Crisis [Johnson C13 and Gallo 13]	Reflection 13; Discussion Board 13
Fourteen	Mini-Seminar: Leading Without Authority I [Gallo C14 and C15]	Reflection 14; Discussion Board 14
Fifteen	Mini-Seminar: Leading Without Authority II [Gallo C16 and Conclusion]	No assignments this week
Sixteen	Turn in Final Project	

**Academic Misconduct:**

According to the University of Louisville Undergraduate Catalog:

“Plagiarism, in submitting individual work for academic evaluation, means simply to borrow someone's ideas without citing the source, and to use them as one's own. It is a particular type of cheating. Plagiarism in this sense is not limited to the use of direct quotations without citation; a paraphrase is indebted to the author's ideas just as a direct quotation is. Nor is plagiarism limited to the use of published materials; borrowing from the written or oral work of others without citation is equally dishonest.”

Any proven plagiarism or other academic misconduct will result in failure of the course and will be reported to the committee on student discipline for further action, including notice in the permanent record, dismissal or expulsion. For more information on plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct, please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog. It is your responsibility to understand these policies and the ramifications of your actions.

**Disabilities:**

If you have a disability that requires accommodation for you to participate and complete requirements for this class, please notify me immediately and contact the Disability Resource Center (119 Stevenson Hall, 852-6938) to verify eligibility and determine specific accommodations.

**Title IX/Clery Act Notification:**

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain confidential support from the PEACC Program (852-2663), Counseling Center (852-6585), and Campus Health Services (852-6479). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students (852-5787) or University of Louisville Police (852-6111).

Disclosure to University faculty or instructors of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University's Title IX officer.

For more information, see the Sexual Misconduct Resource Guide (<http://louisville.edu/hr/employeerelations/sexual-misconduct-brochure>).

**WARNING: THIS SYLLABUS CAN CHANGE, DEPENDING ON WEATHER PROBLEMS, AVAILABILITY OF GUEST SPEAKERS, ETC. CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.**