The University of Texas at Tyler

POLS 4393: The Principles of Public Leadership - Travel Study
May ~ 2023

Professor: Dr. [Robert Sterken](Links to an external site.) Office Hours: Always online.
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Course Overview

The purpose of this travel study course is to enable students to prepare themselves to become leaders and to embark on paths of personal leadership development. This journey into leadership requires personal curiosity and reflection from students as well as personal openness and sharing with the professor. Leadership development concepts used in the course will be immediately applicable to students and useful for the rest of their lives. (The are no perquisites for this course. 3 credit hours.)

Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to document, via self-assessment and reflection, a discovery learning experience in London, Paris, and Berlin. This discovery learning experience involves academic instruction and learning outside of a
traditional classroom. For example, we will study the personality and power of Churchill in readings and in the Churchill War Rooms. This course is designed for students who desire to become effective and authentic leaders, who are committed to developing themselves, and who want to understand their own motivations and the purpose of their leadership. Students must be open to sharing personal goals, insights, experiences, ambitions, and fears.

Course Requirements

This course has four primary assessments of learning requirements:
1. Daily Writing Assignments – 25%.

2. Personal Mission Statement – 15%.

3. Leadership Paper – 25%.

4. Final Exam (online in Canvas) – 20%.

5. Engagement & Participation - 15%.

Students will complete three modules - units (see the course under the Modules tab). Reading, online video/lecture viewing, and writing are required for the successful completion of the course. In a series of introspective exercises, students will apply lessons learned to a) real-world

leaders, b) to their own lives, and in the creation of their own personal leadership mission statement.

Required Reading:

Students who wish to supplement the lectures (given in London, Paris, and Berlin) with reading should read the Stephen Covey's Seven Habits book (this is not required).

Personality and Power: Builders and Destroyers of Modern Europe: Audiobook – Unabridged by Ian Kershaw Penguin Audio.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
1. Define their own personal leadership journey by reflecting upon and framing their life stories, experiences, desires, and goals.
2. Identify how and why many great leaders are effective.
3. Explain both the private and public habits that allow for great leadership.
4. Discuss leadership principles, values, and ethical boundaries.
5. Distinguish what is motivating them, both extrinsically and intrinsically.
6. Create a personal leadership mission statement to guide them in their lives.

Grading, Testing, and Assessment of Learning

This course is content and learning-centered. This means that real learning is expected. Your course grade will depend on your learning and the completion of four key components.

First, you must complete each module. In each module, you will find video lectures, additional videos, and assignments. Participation in and completion of those each module is critical to your success in this course.

Second, you must write a personal mission statement. This completed statement is due at the end of the course and must be posted in Canvas in the "Journal." The well-written mission statement will earn you 15% of your final course grade. You will find a guide for writing your mission statement in Canvas. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need help with this assignment.

Third, each student will write a paper in which they apply the lesson of leadership discussed in the video lectures to one of the twelve leaders in the readings from the book above.

Fourth, each student must complete a final examination online in Canvas. This "open-book" exam and is composed of essay questions.

Roles and Responsibilities

Things happen, and sometimes our best plans and intentions do not go as we planned.   If this happens, you only need to contact the professor and make arrangements to complete the work.

Course Outline Topics

Academic and Cultural Activities and Excursions London
• A half-day sightseeing tour of London by private bus with the services of a professional, Blue Badge guide.
• Timed entrance to the Imperial War Museum for a self-guided visit.
• Entrance to the Churchill War Rooms.
• Audio-guided tour of the Houses of Parliament.
• A specialist wartime London walking tour focusing on the Blitz.
• Tickets to a performance of Les Misérables. Paris
• Sightseeing cruise on the river Seine.
• A guided walking tour of central Paris with professional English-speaking guide. The district of Paris will be selected in consultation with the University of Texas at Tyler faculty, such as the Marais district.
• Group reservation for a guided tour of the Mémorial de la Shoah.
• A specialist walking tour focusing on life in Paris during World War Two.
• Group reservation for a guided tour of the Musée de la Libération de Paris.
• Group entry to Les Invalides, including access to the Musée de l'Armée and the Musée de Berlin
• A half-day sightseeing tour of Berlin by private bus with a professional guide, to include the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the East Side Gallery, Brandenburg Gate, the site of the Führerbunker, Checkpoint Charlie and other sites.
• Group reservation for an audio-guided tour of the Reichstag Dome (free of charge).
• Half-day seminar and tour at the German Resistance Memorial Center focusing on "The Nazi Dictatorship and its Opponents."
• Self-guided visit to the Topography of Terror Exhibition (free of charge).
• Self-guided visit by public transport to the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum including entrance with audio guides.

Student Resources

University Policies and Information