COMM 5308 Teamwork and Leadership  
Fall 2012; Section .001; Wednesdays 7:00-9:45 p.m.

Office: Bay Hall 328; Phone – 361-825-2729; virginia.wheeless@tamucc.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday - noon - 1:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: 4:00-6:30 p.m.  
Other times are available by appointment

Course Description and Learning Outcomes: This course will focus on the theory and practice of leaders in a variety of settings. Topics include understanding the theories that guide leaders and their communication; and how leaders develop leadership and team skills and perform; and develop critical thinking skills.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the end of this course, students will be able to

1. Identify key terms, major communication theories, and current scholarly research relevant to the study of leadership and group communication with a focus on team building;
2. Identify theories of leadership and apply appropriate ones to various situations;
3. Apply communication and leadership theories to demonstrate effective communication as both a team member and as a leader;
4. Demonstrate creative and critical thinking skills in problem solving contexts;
5. Show an understanding of ways to teach others to think critically;
6. Identify ways to improve your leadership through critique of your skills as a leader; and
7. Produce projects identifying effective leadership strategies and their application.


Additional Readings: Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester. Students will be asked to read an autobiography or biography of someone they see as a strong leader.

Method of Instruction: Discussions of material in the text and other assigned readings; oral presentations by students and professor; in-class assignments; and written work.

Method of Evaluation: Students will be graded on written paper and exams; in-class activities and presentations. The professor will grade all exams, papers, and presentations. See grade calculation below about how each assignment fits into the final grade for the course. Students are encouraged to meet with the professor to discuss grades on assignments as grades are given and not wait until the end of the semester.

Course Assignments and Grade Calculation:

- Two examinations (100 pts. each) 200 points
- In-class presentations on case studies 50 points
- In-class presentation on selected leader 150 points
- In-class discussion 150 points (throughout semester)

Total Points 500 points

Grade Calculation:  
A 90% of the total points 450 and above
B 80% of the total points 400 – 449
C 70% of the total points 350 – 399
D 60% of the total points 300 – 349
F Below 360

Note: Graduate students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA and thus, grades below a B can be troublesome.
Examinations: Exams will be take-home. Students are expected to answer questions and back them with research citations using appropriate APA style. The first exam is due September 19 and the second one is due November 21.

Case Study Presentations: Students will be assigned a case studies and will critically evaluate it using material covered in class and make a 10-15 minute presentation about the case study. These presentations will occur across the semester.

In-Class Presentation on Selected Leader: Students will make a 15-20 minute presentation on the leader the student chose. The presentation will allow the student to use material covered in the class to evaluate the effectiveness of the leader. Presentations will be made on November 7, 14, and 28. Students will lose 10 points from their grade if they miss a class when other students are making their presentations on leaders.

Class Discussion: Students need to come to class prepared to discuss all readings and actively engage in discussions about their synthesis and analysis of assigned material.

Attendance: All assignments are due on the dates assigned unless you are absent for a university excused event or have a doctor’s excuse. Late exams and presentations will receive one grade lower than the original grade given if they are late. Absences could impact your final grade because of in-class discussion which accounts for 20% of your grade. If you are not in class, you cannot be involved in the discussion.

Academic Honesty: Students unaware of the university’s statement on academic honesty should review it in the Undergraduate Catalog or Student Handbook. Examples of academic dishonesty and plagiarism are using someone else’s ideas and not giving them credit; presenting a paper or speech that is not originally yours; handing in assignments that are not originally yours; presenting “facts” or lifting ideas from sources without crediting the source; presenting falsified opinions and figures; cheating on an exam; and/or not participating in group activities, but taking credit for the product. If you are uncertain as to what actions constitute plagiarism or dishonesty, please ask your professor. Students who violate the code of honesty in this class will receive a “0” on that assignment. Any student receiving more than one “0” for academic dishonesty or plagiarism will fail the course and could be dismissed from the program. Note: All violations of the academic honesty are reported to the college dean and Office of Students Affairs who maintains documentation of such offenses for at least 5 years.

Blackboard: Some class items will be posted on Blackboard and students should know how to use it. If you have difficulty, call the university’s Help Desk at 825-2825 or long distance 866-353-2491.

Equity Statement: All persons, regardless of gender, age, class, race, ethnicity, religion, physical disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, nationality, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this class. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially with your professor or department chair.

Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi complies with the American with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 361-825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Advising: The College of Liberal Arts requires that graduate students meet regularly with their Academic Advisor. For students with less than 18 hours, your advisor is the Graduate Coordinator for the Communication program. All other students have been assigned an advisor.

Grade Appeal Process: As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The
burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamus.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html.
For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Discussion topics and Chapters from text</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 22</td>
<td>Class orientation and introduction of student</td>
<td>Student introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Define leadership and leadership ethics (Chapter 1, 2, and 15)</td>
<td>Bring your definitions of both</td>
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<td>September 5</td>
<td>Approaches to understanding leadership style (Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6)</td>
<td>Bring recent article from communication journals on topics in chapters 3-6.</td>
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<td>September 12</td>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations</td>
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<td>September 19</td>
<td>Examination #1 due</td>
<td>Take home exam due</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Leadership theories (Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10)</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations</td>
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<td>October 3</td>
<td>Team building, team work, and leading groups/teams (Chapter 11). Case Studies</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>No class - Dr. Wheeless will be at a conference</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations</td>
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<td>October 17</td>
<td>Leadership Approaches and Culture and Leadership (Chapters, 12 and 14)</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Who are the effective leaders of nations</td>
<td>Take home exam due</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td>Student presentations about their leaders</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td>Student presentations about their leaders</td>
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<td>November 21</td>
<td>Examination #2 Due</td>
<td>Take home exam due</td>
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<td>November 28</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td>Student presentations about their leaders</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
<td>Make up of presentations/case studies</td>
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NOTES: *The Professor may change dates for assignments if special circumstances arise. Students will be notified in writing of changes.