COMM 4390:001 Syllabus

Term: Summer I 2015 (May 14 to May 29)
Office: Bay Hall 334

Course meets: 6:00 – 9:45 pm MW in BH 126
Office Hours: MTW 9:00 to 10:30 am or appt.
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Professor: Dr. Anantha S. Babbili

Topics in Communication:

LEADERSHIP IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY

Course Description:

This course introduces undergraduate students to the exciting and perplexing domain of leadership in the context of communication in a multicultural and diverse world. Global marketplace and international economy are demanding a variety of leadership and management styles from professionals entering the U.S. industries. We will be studying cultural differences, effective communication skills, and tools for success in the workplace. We will study leadership and management styles of successful CEOs and of professionals who have made an impact in the communication and media industries as well as in the general workplace of the global economy. We will strive to understand the nature of multiculturalism and inclusiveness and how culture impacts on success and on professional communication.

Learning Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

1) Understand the nature and demands of leadership in an increasingly global economy and on communication professionalism;
2) Identify cultural differences between the U.S. leadership styles and of those around select countries emerging as strong players in global economy;
3) Work through emerging research and philosophies of leadership communication, perspectives, and intercultural sensitivity.

Required Textbook:


Major Course Requirements and Expectations:

Students will be required to attend every class period, write weekly abstracts, two think pieces/essays and a term paper at the conclusion of the term. The course will be composed of instructor's lectures, class discussions relating to course materials and readings, possible field trips, guest speakers, and written and oral presentations by students.
Students will be evaluated and their performance will be assessed on the following criteria and grading scale:

**In-class participation/Attendance:** 10% (Discussion on assigned readings, lectures and media readings). Each student is required to complete specific readings of book chapters and journal/newspaper articles and contribute to class discussions on topics related to leadership in a diverse and multicultural society.

**4 Abstracts:** 25% (One-page single-spaced typed summaries and critiques of selected readings) Analytical summaries and critiques must be submitted by each student that exhibit capacity for individual thought and critical analysis of problems in global leadership.

**1 Think Piece:** 30% (3-5 page double-spaced typed commentary and critique on topics in global media). Students must submit these extended essays that exhibit ability to correlate topics in global leadership in the context of lectures and readings.

**Final Paper:** 35% (Research paper on an approved topic in global media). Fully developed term paper is expected from each student at the end of the course that show rigor in research and critical analysis relating to a specific topic or problem selected by student with approval of instructor. Guidelines will be given in advance in class.

**Grading Scale:** 90-100 A Excellent; 80-89 B Very Good; 70-79 C Average; 60-69 D; 59-below F

**Course Policies:**

*Attendance and Tardiness:* Attendance is required—both physically and mentally. You are expected to take an active role in classroom discussions. Absences, late arrivals, and chronic failure to engage in class discussions will all be reflected in your participation grade.

*Late work and make-up exams*

- If there should be a legitimate reason for you missing class (illness, family emergencies, certain University-sponsored extracurricular activities), please provide the instructor with the notification prior to the event or as soon as you are able—before the missed class period. If appropriate, we can arrange alternate times for you to make up quizzes or exams, but it will be your responsibility to get any information from lecture from one of your classmates.
- Unexcused absences will be noted and reflected in your participation grade. Also, any work missed due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up.
- Late work for any reason considered unexcused will be penalized by at least one letter grade for each day it is late.

*Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage:* While in class, please make sure your phone is off or on silent (and in your backpack or out of sight), so it’s not heard in class. Also, limited laptop use is permitted—for note-taking only, but do not abuse this privilege.

- If you would like to discuss any course readings, lectures, or assignments outside of class, you should feel free to contact me via email or by arranging to visit me during office hours or set up an appointment to see me at any other time.
- Please submit hard copies of your papers, prior to the class period on the due date. Marked copies will be returned to you.
• All writing for this course must be composed using a standard, 12-point font size, and with the standard 1-inch margins.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism: University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examination or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work). In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in the course grade of F.

Academic Advising:

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping the Course:  I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation will not automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please check published dates for the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Preferred methods of scholarly citations

For the purpose of citation, please follow APA style (notes and bibliography). Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will result in the grade of F for the course.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Statement of Civility (can be in place of classroom/professional behavior)

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS: Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamuc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
Disabilities Accommodations*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Class Schedule and Assignments on next page
COMM 4390: Leadership in a Global Society

Lecture Topic Schedule and Assignments (subject to change)

Introduction, course outline/expectations

May 18: Why Study Leadership in a Global Society? A Communication and Media Approach
Chapter 1: Multiculturalism and Diversity, Awareness & Skills
Importance of Culture in Leadership and Communication
Chapter 2: The Complexity of Culture
Cultural Frameworks in Leadership
Chapter 3: Cultural Frameworks and their Importance for Leadership (Abstract # 1)

May 20: Multicultural Awareness, Knowledge and Skills
Chapter 4: Journey through Multicultural Awareness
Developing Multicultural Competencies to be Effective Leaders
Chapter 5: The Development of Multicultural Competencies
Study of Global Leadership Styles and Differences
Chapter 6: Effective Skills in Multiculturalism and Diversity
How Religion and Culture impact on Leadership Skills
Readings to be Assigned (Abstract # 2 and Think Piece due)

May 25: Leading from Cultural Awareness and Knowledge
Chapter 7: A Training Program (Work on Term Paper)
Conflict Management and Leadership
Chapter 8: Constructive Conflict Management and Culture
Research in Leadership in a Global Society
Readings to be Assigned (Abstract # 3 due)

May 27: The Global Context for Local Leadership
Final Paper Presentations
Final Paper Presentations (Abstract # 4 due)
Final Paper Presentations
Final Paper Presentations

Written Final Papers due in Class