



**RSP 200**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014**

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more  
and become more, you are a leader."  
- John Quincy Adams*

**Instructor:** Jennifer Hudson  
**Office Location:** One Stop Shop 139  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
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<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

Instructor will provide handouts, copies or links to online articles/readings as necessary.

**Course Description:**

Knowledge/Cognitive Learning Goals:

- Examine etymological origins or leadership
- Discriminate between popular notions of leadership, models, and empirically tested theories
- Develop working knowledge of history of leadership and the evolution of leadership theory including: great man; trait; behavioral/style; situational/contingency; influence/charisma; reciprocal/relational; change and chaos theories.
- Integrate leadership learning across the disciplines

Personal Development Learning Goals:

- Understand the nature of power and influence, as well as oppression
- Refine/Improve effective written and oral communication skills

Group/Organizational Learning Goals:

- Learn to develop common purpose in groups
- Study elements of strategic planning including development of mission, vision, goal and outcome statements
- Focus on collective efficacy and group potency for change

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

**Instructional Methods:** Class consists of various styles of presentations, activities and interactions. In RSP 200, students will be active participants regardless of the mode of instruction. Students should come to class ready to participate, both in terms of preparation as assigned and attitude toward class and colleagues.

**Attendance- Class attendance is EXPECTED.** If a student has excessive, unexcused absences, the instructor possess the right to deduct 3 points from the final grade. If a student is excessively tardy, the instructor reserves the right to consider the student absent for class. Excused absences are defined by university policy and must be documented appropriately within ONE WEEK of absence. **Participation:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Though ninety percent of life is showing up, we want RSP students to demonstrate strength in the other ten percent: going the extra mile through active involvement and contribution to the class. You will be asked to stretch your comfort zones. Participation and discussion is worth **20%** of the grade.

**Leadership Journal:** Because of the nature of the course, students will be required to keep a journal throughout RSP 200-201. This journal will be to not only record class notes but serve as a place to answer questions posed in class and keep track of your goals. You will also use this journal as your guide when you build your own theory of leadership throughout the year. The journal will be worth **30%** of your course grade.

**Quizzes:** Throughout the semester, there will be 6 announced quizzes regarding materials covered in lecture, readings and class discussions. Each quiz is worth 5% of your course grade, totaling **30%**.

**Group Theory Presentation:** Students will be divided into small groups and assigned a leadership theory. Students will present in-class the basis of the theory, the merits and criticisms. Students will also design an in-class activity or object lesson to further explain the theory. This presentation is a group grade worth **10%**.

**Personal Proposal:** Of the topics available, describe your top 2 choices of task. Explain why your leadership theory/style and strengths is complimentary to your chosen task. Also, document ideas you have for the task and any complimentary partnerships you see with your fellow classmates either in their expressed leadership style, personal strengths or actions you have observed. (Ex. I am a relational leader but I may need someone who is more task or goal-oriented). Groups will be assigned based on these statements before the end of the semester. **(10%)**

**Examples: RSP Service Project, Campus Event (Multicultural Festival), Spring Banquet, Newsletter/Blog Maintenance, Spring Outing, Student Choice-be creative!**

## Grading

Students' course grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

A = EXCELLENT	90 and above
B = GOOD	80-89.9
C = <b>AVERAGE</b>	70-79.9
D = POOR	60-69.9
F = FAILURE	less than 60 points

<b>COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT</b>
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### Interaction with Instructor Statement:

The instructor expects each of you to participate in the class discussion/activities, as well as to carry your own weight in the group work activities. Office hours are available outside of class by appointment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

*Classroom Decorum:* Because we will be dealing with controversial cotemporary social issues, and open mind and a mature attitude are important requirements for the course. Students are expected to be polite and courteous at all times. Courtesy also includes remaining off your cell phone once class begins. All persons entering the classroom shall be treated with dignity and respect regardless of age, race, sex, social class, religion, political views, sexual orientation, and/or lifestyle.

### University Specific Procedures:

#### Students with Disabilities:

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library**

**Room 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

### *Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*)

## **COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR**

Week 1: Welcome & Syllabus/ Introduction to Leadership

Week 2: History of Leadership Theory

Week 3: Purpose of Developing as a Leader

Week 4: Understanding Yourself as a Leader

Week 5: SQ & Personal Branding

Week 6: Skills/Style and Situational Approach

Week 7: The Changing Nature of Leadership

Week 8: Understanding Others in Leadership

Week 9: Contingency, Path-Goal and Leader-Member Exchange Theories

Week 10: Relational Leadership Model

Week 11: Transformational Leadership Model

Week 12: Socially Responsible Leadership

Week 13: Leading with Integrity and Moral Purpose

Week 14: "My Theory" Presentations

Week 15: "My Theory" Presentations