I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Effective ministry requires strong leadership skills that can be adapted to a variety of contexts and situations. This course helps students cultivate the specific skills necessary to lead congregations in the work of ministry and renewal—and the process of leading successful change in the missional church.

II. TEXTBOOKS:

Required Reading:


Strongly Recommended:


Additional Reading Recommendation:


III. RATIONALE:

This course is part of the Master of Divinity degree concentration in Church Renewal.

This course assumes the student has already gained a basic understanding of the theology of the Church, and an appreciation of congregational dynamics. Material read, learned, discussed and applied in this course will directly pertain to practical, dynamic ministry leadership of change, and will require students to demonstrate a clear comprehension of the necessary skills and understanding. All coursework will be sequential and cumulative.
IV. SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES:

1. Self awareness and mastery of student’s personal strengths for use in ministry leadership
2. Comprehension and application of the anatomy of contagious ministry movement, and creating a “discipleship path”
3. Practical dynamics of leading a team, building a team, and the “currency” of egonomics
4. Engaging and deploying servants (volunteers)
5. Transitioning a congregation or ministry’s focus outward to reach new people for Christ
6. Strategy and skills to ignite prayer initiatives in your congregation
7. Leading change—missonal, spiritual, organizational -- and how to make a case for change
8. Ability and skills to convert personal learning into practical, transferable concepts

V. TEACHING STRATEGIES:

This course will utilize lecture, group discussion and a short individual presentation by each student. Occasional guest ministry specialists will also be included.

VI. CALENDAR OF TOPICS:

Monday, September 14: Leading Yourself
Morning Session:
• "Coachability"

• North Star Strategy

• Leading by Strengths -- part I

Afternoon Session:
• Leading by Strengths -- part II

• Egonomics

• The "Power Station"

Tuesday, September 15: The Art of Leading Change
Morning Session:
• Primary Leadership Components -- and leveraging change as a leader

• Making a Case for Change

Afternoon Session:
• Breakthrough Prayer Initiative: Fueling the "atmosphere of possibility"
Wednesday, September 16
  Morning Session: **Leading Spiritual Change**
    • Fueling a Contagious Ministry Movement -- and creating "trigger points"
    • Unleashing Unpaid Ministry

  Afternoon Session: **Leading Missional Change**
    • Lessons from the Mindset of Church Planters
    • "Project Neighborhood"
    • The Missionary Church

Thursday, September 17
  Morning Session: **Leading Your Leaders**
    • Building and/or Renewing a Team
    • Discipling Your Leaders
    • The Life of a Leader

  Afternoon Session: **Making a Case for Change**
    • Student presentations
VII. DETERMINATION OF FINAL GRADE

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**
All writing assignments must show accuracy and professionalism in grammar, punctuation, spelling and style—this is a graduate level course, and your ability to demonstrate this professionalism should be the norm. An assignment will automatically drop a letter grade if it must be returned to the student for correction of spelling, punctuation, and/or grammar, or if it is late. All writing assignments must be original work for this course. If a student submits written work that was prepared as part of coursework for a different class, or materials created or used previously in your church or ministry setting, an automatic “no credit” for that assignment will be given.

Intensive PRE WORK:
1. **Reading.** Complete all reading of required texts for the course prior to the first class session.

2. **Reflection Paper -- due Sunday, September 13. (10% of final grade)**
   After reading all required texts for the course, prepare a 4 - 5 page reflection paper describing each of the following. **Each of these elements must be present** in your reflection paper:
   - Your ministry history, and current context in which you serve
   - Your overall ministry "calling" -- or your current dream for your future in serving God according to your unique gifts and strengths
   - The theory of change, or change concepts, you found most interesting and relevant to the process of change in the local church (and specifically why) from your reading of the book *Spiritual Kaizen.*
   - What you believe are your most urgent "growing edges" in your pursuit of effective ministry leadership, and anything else that would be helpful to know about you as a student in this course.

3. **Due Monday, September 14 (first day of Intensive, start of class time).**
   - Complete the StrengthsFinder online survey found in the StrengthsFinder 2.0 book (one-use code is located in a red envelope in the back of the book), and bring a hard copy of your top 5 strengths (do not need all the descriptions, just the 5 strengths) with you to class to turn in at the start of the first day.

IN-CLASS: (40% of final grade)
Expectations of students include the following:
- On time attendance through the entire day, all 4 days of the Intensive; in-class participation, showing evidence of having completed all reading and also comprehension of course content (20%)
- Successful application of a specific element of course content, as demonstrated in a 10-minute presentation each student will make at a pre-agreed time during the intensive. Additional details and instructions about this presentation will be provided during the course. (20%)

Intensive POST WORK:
Due Monday, October 19: (50% of final grade)
Based on application of your reading for this course plus all course content and discussion, prepare a 15-20 page paper that includes the following themes. Include in your paper practical, specific plans around each that you could or will implement, and evidence of comprehension of course content:

- Leading Yourself
- Leading Spiritual Change
- Leading Missional Change
- Leading Organizational Change

**Full requirements** for the final paper will be provided during class time.
VIII: SEMINARY STANDARDS

A. **Inclusive language:** United Theological Seminary has an official policy regarding the use of Inclusive Language. The policy may be found in the Seminary Catalog and is further explained in the Student Handbook. If you have specific questions, please see the instructor.

B. **Academic Integrity:** Student integrity regarding all work assigned in this class is a basic expectation of the Seminary community. A detailed policy regarding what constitutes a violation of academic integrity can be found in the Student Handbook.