

**Psychology 360**  
**Foundations of Leadership**  
**Spring 2007**

**Instructor:** Dr. Sharon Lewis  
**Office:** 214B Seney Hall, Office Tel 4-8374  
**Office Hours:** Mon/Wed: 11:00-12:30  
Tues/ Thurs: 2:15-3:15  
These hours are subject to change. Other  
times by appointment; anytime by LL

**Course Description:** This is a 4-credit-hour seminar examining the foundations of modern leadership. The goal of the course is for you to finish with a greater appreciation for the complex nature of good leadership. With that in mind, we will focus on the development and changing nature of effective and ethical leadership in several different contexts.

**Class Organization:** The course will require considerable reading, critical analysis, and the willingness to participate in discussions. Class attendance is required because part of your grade is based on your participation in class discussions. Everyone is expected to: keep up with the current class day's readings (available via e-reserve through the Oxford Library), come to each class with at least one discussion question based on the day's readings, be prepared to participate in discussions on the research presented in these articles, and address specific discussion questions distributed in class or posted on LL.

Each student, working with another, has the responsibility of leading class discussion several times during the semester. With your partner, you will summarize the readings for that day and post to our LL conference a set of discussion questions. Please think about with whom you would like to work. I will assign you your class days sometime during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of classes.

**LearnLink Essays:** Before each class day, you will post a brief, reflective essay on our LL class conference based on the current day's readings.

**Unit Summary Essays:** At the end of each topic unit, students will write a brief critical summary of the research presented on that topic. You will reflect upon, and then summarize what you have learned as well as note any gaps in the research. These gaps may be questions you consider significant but have not yet been answered. You may choose to note particularly interesting or disturbing findings. There will be five of these.

**Grades:** Your grade will be based on the quality of: 1) your participation (e.g., Are you participating during every class? Do you ask meaningful questions or add substantially to the discussion? Do your questions indicate that you have read and thought about the material or is it clear that you only glanced at it? Making meaningless comments does not count as participation.), 2) your LL essays (e.g., Does your essay clearly indicate to me that you took the time to think about the meaning or implications of what you read? Do you agree or disagree and why? I do not want to hear simply that you like or dislike a reading but tell me why. The fact that something is hard to read could indicate that the author is dealing with complex ideas. Things that are complex often take more effort to read and comprehend. Be prepared for this type of reading. Make sure that your essay does not deal with only superficial aspects of the readings; it will be obvious to me as well as to your classmates.), 3) your team's leading of class discussion (Do the two of you seem well-prepared to lead discussion? Are your discussion questions interesting? Provocative? Meaningful? Did you post your questions to our LL conference on time?), and 4) your unit summaries (Is this a thoughtful summary of these readings? Can I tell that you read the material carefully? Do you note any connections between the readings? How do different authors deal with the same idea? Do you make any connections to recent events? Are you describing what you are learning or how your ideas have changed? Have you answered any questions that I have asked you to address?)

All essays written during the semester whether at the end of the units or for the LL conference must reflect a careful reading of the course material and thoughtful reflection. If you submit an essay which does not exhibit these characteristics, I will ask you to rewrite that particular essay and to address the deficiencies I have noted. I will give you comprehensive, written evaluations of your performance on the following dates: Wed., Feb 7<sup>h</sup>, Wed., March 7<sup>th</sup>, and Wed., April 11<sup>th</sup>. Failure to address problems that I have noted in writing will result in a lower grade. Please remember to adhere to Oxford College's Honor Code at all times.

Although I have just finished making quite a few statements about grades, I really prefer our primary focus to be on learning about and discussing interesting ideas. I realize that is more likely to happen if you are not anxious about your grade so please don't hesitate to set up an appointment at any point if you would like to talk to me about your performance in the class.

**Note:** I expect this class to be a fun, informal, but demanding class. I would prefer to conduct the class in much the same way graduate seminars are run. However, if you fail to do the readings consistently and do not come to class prepared, I will need to evaluate you using more conventional methods, such as tests and quizzes.