



Governance, Leadership and Ethics | GLE 2003G Introduction to Leadership

Prerequisite(s): Enrollment in the Governance, Leadership and Ethics major

Course Description

If ever there was a time when leadership really matters, it's now. The past year included all manner of challenges: climate change induced forest fires; a global pandemic leading to more than one and a half million deaths, border closures and lockdowns; a world-wide economic recession; an uprising over generations of systemic racism and oppression; tragic losses of life from aircraft crashes and mass shootings; and, the uncertainties that come in contentious political times.

It is also a time when we see new leaders rising up, in their own spaces and sectors as well as in new coalitions and partnerships, to lead us through the challenges we face. Sometimes these leaders emerge from peak posts within organizations or institutions; but, often they emerge from far less expected places. Teenagers are leading protests of thousands. Faith leaders are reaching beyond their traditional communities to address major social issues. Simple acts such as taking a knee or wearing a mask (or not) have become powerful and mobilizing political expressions.

What forces and factors are shaping the current context for leadership? Who are the voices that we are not hearing, but need to be? Are the tasks of leadership today common across sectors, or is there variation in the skills and knowledge needed? What does it mean to be an effective leader – or, a *leader with heart* – during extraordinary times or when faced with unprecedented challenges?

If you find yourself with more questions than answers when thinking about leadership in the 2021-22 context and an appetite to explore these questions – well, this course is for you.