Institute for Leadership Studies

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The Institute for Leadership Studies (ILS) supports KU’s mission of educating students who can effectively engage in the process of leadership with innovative, interdisciplinary academic programs. Through the ILS these academic programs are collaboratively designed to educate and prepare students to make a difference from where they are with what they have, developing the courage and leadership skills to ignite positive change. In doing so, the ILS fulfills its mission to create leadership capacity among all of its stakeholders for thriving in the face of challenge, conflict, and change.

The ILS houses KU’s interdisciplinary Leadership Studies Minor. First offered to KU students in the spring of 2001, the Leadership Studies Minor (LSM) began as a collaborative partnership between the Department of Communication Studies and the Student Involvement and Leadership Center. Believing that a complementary interdisciplinary approach allows students to develop a breadth of innovative capacity that can cross disciplinary boundaries, the LSM fosters a tolerance for ambiguity, empathy, perspective taking, and a self-awareness that promotes active reflection and elevates multiple perspectives in diagnosis and problem solving. Through a series of theoretical and experiential coursework in group and individual contexts, the minor’s dynamic curriculum to provide a foundation from which students can engage their disciplinary content with greater efficacy to then foster effective leadership skills within their major content area.

Courses

LDST 201. Introduction to Leadership. 2 Hours S.
This course introduces students to the study of the leadership process. The course covers theories and research on core themes of leadership, focusing on how course materials relate to students’ own leadership experiences. Concurrent enrollment in LDST 202 is recommended. Students considering the Leadership Studies Minor must complete LDST 202. Not open to seniors. LEC.

LDST 202. Introduction to Leadership Applications. 1 Hour AES1 / S.
This course focuses on the application of information learned in LDST 201. Activities and discussions emphasize application, analysis, and engagement with the process of leadership. Concurrent enrollment in LDST 201 is recommended. Students considering the Leadership Studies Minor must complete LDST 201 and LDST 202. Not open to seniors. Prerequisite: Corequisite: LDST 201. LEC.

LDST 203. Introduction to Leadership, Honors. 3 Hours AES1 / S.
This course combines an introduction to a theoretical, research-based approach to the study of leadership with hands-on application, analysis, and engagement with the process of leadership. Within a small group setting, students explore core leadership competencies and experiment with the process of leadership by engaging classmates and members of the university and local communities and addressing issues of concern within those communities. This course satisfies the LDST 201/LDST 202 prerequisite for the Leadership Studies Minor. Prerequisite: Admission to the University Honors Program, Instructor Permission. LEC.

LDST 260. Study Abroad Topics in Leadership Studies. 1-6 Hours S.
This course is designed to enhance international experience in topic areas related to Leadership Studies at the freshman/sophomore level. Coursework must be arranged through the Office of KU Study Abroad. May be repeated for credit if content varies. FLD.

LDST 271. Foundations of Adaptive Leadership. 3 Hours S.
This course introduces students to the study of the leadership process with an emphasis on applying the Adaptive Leadership paradigm to current systems in which the student is engaged. Activities and discussions focus on analysis and diagnosis of current leadership cases, offering students opportunities to apply concepts to their own professional disciplines and systems. LEC.

LDST 272. Ethics and Diversity in Leadership. 3 Hours AE51 / S.
This course examines in-depth the role of ethics and diversity in effectively engaging in the process of Adaptive Leadership. Activities and discussion will focus on the application of theories of ethics and diversity as well as the development of core leadership competencies within student’s own professional disciplines and systems. Prerequisite: LDST 271. LEC.

LDST 302. How to Plan (Almost) Anything: Event Development and Management. 3 Hours S.
This course is designed to provide an introduction to the principles of special event planning and management. Students will gain foundational concepts and professional skills through researching, planning, coordinating, marketing, management and evaluation of special events. This course will develop student skills necessary to lead and manage in an ethically, environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable way. By utilizing the adaptive leadership model, students will analyze core objectives of event planning, while experimenting with realistic and disciplined assessment. Essential topics will include event planning and coordination, sponsorship, negotiations, marketing, communications, customer service, vendor management, volunteer management, crisis risk management, and event evaluation. LEC.

LDST 371. Leadership and Interpersonal Effectiveness. 3 Hours.
This course examines the role of communication in effectively engaging others in the work of leadership. It is expected that participants will finish this course with knowledge of basic interpersonal principles, theory, and applied research as it pertains to leadership and building strong relationships with others. This course is designed to develop participant’s interpersonal competencies within their own professional disciplines and systems. It is comprised of discussion, activities, assignments, and exams. Topics such as interpersonal skills, self-regulation, impression formation, emotion, and conflict management, as they apply to communication and leadership contexts will be discussed. Prerequisite: LDST 271, LDST 272. LEC.

LDST 381. Survey of Leadership Theory and Application. 3 Hours S.
A survey and application of leadership theories and communication skills will enhance students’ development of expertise in assessing organizations, identifying systems issues, and facilitating organization- and system-wide improvement in a variety of workplaces. Traditional approaches to leading, organizing, and communicating are contrasted with emerging approaches that promote sensitivity to diverse organizational cultures, populations, and challenges. Through examination of theoretical perspectives, the student will develop an ability to integrate the contributions of different points of view and ways of thinking crucial to accurately assess, design and lead high performing teams and organizations in a dynamic world. LEC.

LDST 420. Communication, Leadership, and Conflict Management. 3 Hours S.
This course introduces students to theories of conflict management from a variety of academic perspectives and the role leadership plays in managing conflict across multiple contexts. Students will learn how to successfully assess and command situations and effectively resolve
interpersonal, organizational, and systemic conflict while doing the work of leadership. Prerequisite: LDST 202. LEC.

LDST 431. Communication and Leadership. 3 Hours S.
This course provides an overview of the role of communication in leadership in a variety of contexts, including: interpersonal, small group, intercultural, organizational, and public sphere. It will include theoretical and experiential approaches to effective leadership communication. Prerequisite: Admission to Leadership Minor or consent of instructor. LEC.

LDST 460. Study Abroad Topics in Leadership Studies. 1-6 Hours S.
This course is designed to enhance international experience in topic areas related to Leadership studies at the junior/senior level. Coursework must be arranged through the Office of KU Study Abroad. May be repeated for credit if content varies. FLD.

LDST 470. Independent Study in Leadership Studies. 1-6 Hours S.
This course engages students in an investigation of a special topic or project selected by the student with advice, approval, and supervision of a Leadership Studies instructor. Such study may take the form of special research, individual reports and/or conferences. Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor, LDST 201, LDST 202. IND.

LDST 471. Case Study in Leadership Applications. 3 Hours S.
This course offers students an opportunity to practice effectively engaging in the process of Adaptive Leadership. Activities, readings, and discussion will focus on the application of core leadership competencies and theories of adaptive leadership within students own professional disciplines and systems as well as continuous active reflection. Prerequisite: LDST 271, LDST 272, LDST 371. LEC.

LDST 480. Internship in Leadership Studies. 1-6 Hours S.
Students complete leadership-centered fieldwork in an organization related to their career goals. Criteria for the organizations and work assignments suitable for internship credit are available through the Institute for Leadership Studies. An internship plan is developed with the field supervisor and internship faculty adviser. Reports and meetings are required. Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor. LEC.

LDST 481. Survey of Ethics and Diversity in Leadership. 3 Hours S.
This course examines the implications and applications of various theories of ethics and diversity in effectively engaging in the process of leadership. Activities and discussion will focus on the application of theories of ethics and diversity within the student's professional disciplines and systems. This course is taught online in an 8-week format. Prerequisite: LDST 381. LEC.

LDST 490. Special Topics in Leadership Studies: ____. 3 Hours S.
This course is designed for the study of special topics in leadership studies. Course content addresses major topics and specialized issues in the field and topics change as needs and resources develop. May be repeated for credit if the content differs. Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor. LEC.

LDST 500. Directed Readings in Leadership Studies. 1-6 Hours S.
This course is designed for directed readings in selected areas of Leadership Studies. Individual and supervised readings address major topics and specialized issues in the field. May be repeated for credit if the content differs. Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor. IND.

LDST 520. Leadership Ethics. 3 Hours AE51 / S.
Through collaboration, discussion, case study, and course readings, Leadership Ethics familiarizes students with various theoretical perspectives of ethical decision making and the ethics-guided behavior essential for competent leadership. Upon completion, students will understand a variety of ethical perspectives for the prescription of action in a leadership context, apply a variety of ethical perspectives to the choice and evaluation of action in leadership work, and recognize the significance of considering multiple ethical perspectives in both leadership and broader contexts. Prerequisite: LDST 202. LEC.

LDST 532. Leadership Studies Practicum. 1-3 Hours AE61 / S.
Students engage in a variety of training programs and field experiences in which they learn about leadership, observe leaders in action, and involve themselves in leadership activities. Written assignments and group discussions are used to analyze their learning. Should be taken for a total of three credit hours, across more than one semester. Prerequisite: LDST 201 and admission to the Leadership Studies minor. FLD.

LDST 535. Seminar in Leadership Strategies and Applications. 3 Hours S.
This seminar serves as the capstone course for the Leadership Studies minor. It includes advanced readings on leadership theory and practice, as well as major written and applied projects in which students integrate and demonstrate what they have learned in the program. Prerequisite: LDST 201, or LDST 431, and admission to the Leadership Studies minor. LEC.

LDST 690. Special Topics in Leadership Studies: ____. 3 Hours S.
This course is designed for the study of special topics in Leadership Studies. Course content addresses major topics and specialized issues in the field and topics change as needs and resources develop. May be repeated for credit of the content differs. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. LEC.

LDST 695. Advanced Special Topics in Leadership Studies: ____. 3 Hours S.
This course is designed to take advantage of special competence by an individual faculty member in Leadership Studies. Course content addresses timely topics and relevant issues in the field and topics change as needs and resources develop. May be repeated for credit of the content varies. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. LEC.