

1-1-2002

CL 610 Theology of Servant Leadership

Thomas F. Tumblin

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Tumblin, Thomas F, "CL 610 Theology of Servant Leadership" (2002). *Syllabi*. Book 1153.
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/1153>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.

CL610 Theology of Servant Leadership

Thomas F. Tumblin, Ph.D.

Purpose: The biblical narrative provides ample understanding of what makes leadership Christian. Whether one follows the models of the kings and prophets or the kenosis of Christ and the ensuing Christ followers, the Christian leader is called to a distinctly different style of leadership. This course will expose Christian leaders to the principles and practices that nurture life-long servanthood. We will also examine and seek to practice Christian community as the crucible for authentic Christian leadership.

Readings:

1. *The Power of Servant Leadership: Essays* by Robert Greenleaf, edited by Larry Spears (San Francisco: Berrett Koehler, 1998) ISBN: 1576750353 (313 pages)
2. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership* by Henri Nouwen (NY: Crossroad/Herder & Herder, 1993) ISBN: 0824512596 (81 pages)
3. *Journey to the East* by Herman Hesse (NY: Noonday Press, 1956) ISBN: 0374500363 (118 pages) **OR** *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity* by Eugene Peterson (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990) ISBN: 0802802656 (200 pages)
4. *Jesus and the Suffering Servant: Isaiah 53 and Christian Origins* edited by W. H. Bellinger and William Reuben Farmer (320 pages) ISBN 156338230X (Trinity Press, 1998)
5. Articles:
 - Pfeffer: "On Power"
 - Palmer: "Leading from Within"
 - Excerpts from Wesley re: Methodist Societies and Leaders
 - Excerpts from *Being as Communion* by John Zizioulis
 - Excerpts from *Ascension and Ecclesia* by Douglas Farrow
 - Excerpts from *Community 101* by Gilbert Bilzekian

Learning Outcomes: Upon the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate the general biblical and theological understandings of servant leadership.

2. Identify various leadership styles, contexts and preferences of key biblical figures.
3. Use biblical and theological criteria for evaluating leadership style and practice.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of servant leadership from the Wesleyan perspective.
5. Demonstrate an understanding and practice of shared power.
6. Articulate models of accountability and staying “under authority” as a leader.
7. Demonstrate leadership values which reflect the priority of “The One Thing” – Christ.
8. Practice habits and attitudes that nurture healthy personal vision.
9. Implement understandings of personality and the fruit of the Spirit.

Assignments:

1. Participate in a cross-cultural outreach ministry during the semester and keep a journal of your experiences (facts and feelings).
[Objectives #3, #4, #5, #7, #8, #9]
2. You will be placed in teams for the course and your team will create a paper or project (20 pages or equivalent), drawing on a case study presented during the course. Assume your team is a consulting firm brought into the case and detail a biblical and theological understanding of servant leadership in the politically charged context described in the case study. [Objectives #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #9]
3. Integrative paper or project (20 pages or equivalent) responding to the following questions:
 - Who are you as a servant leader – leadership style, personality, gifts, temperament, passion?
 - What is your communal interaction style?
 - What are your personal values as a servant leader?
 - What disciplines are either in your repertoire now, or need to be, to excel as a servant leader?

- What are the shadow sides of your leadership and how will you remain “under authority” as a leader? [All objectives]
4. A ten page paper integrating your text readings using the 4MAT system {described below} that demonstrates understanding and application of the material to your leadership growth. [Objectives #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6]

The 4-MAT System Instructions

(Adapted from *The 4MAT System* by Bernice McCarthy)

Pages 1-4:

Write one page per text as follows:

1. In the first paragraph, list the author, book title, publisher, and date of publication.
2. In the next paragraphs, write a tight/clear summary or abstract. Not a review, but the essence of the book or issue(s) as the author or originator of the issue would describe it. You may choose to write as if you were the author or originator, in first person voice instead of third person. No bullets or quick lists. Give a deep, insightful summary or abstract.

Pages 5-10:

1. From the summaries, write concrete stories or your own memories in anecdote: What personal life story or memory did the books spark in you. Tell it in first person as a self-authored parable. To quote Dr. Don Joy on this item, “If you can not connect the reading, lecture or movie to your own past and present life experience, you will likely never be able to teach or to use what you have paid your tuition and invested time to learn.”
2. Reflection/Questions: What questions popped to mind as I read the books? What bothered me about them? Where do my experiences disagree with or confirm the insights? What questions are left unanswered?
3. Actions required: What do I need to do about these questions and learnings. Beyond praying, thinking, reading or reflecting, what actions do I need to take? Maybe it means changing a habit. Possibly it demands a phone call or conversation with someone. Maybe it

means making an accountability covenant with a soul mate to ensure application of the principle(s) gleaned.

Grading:

Team Paper/Project	20% of grade	Grading will be based on the criteria found in the ATS Catalog as revised by the Faculty in 12/00. Grade increments (+/-) fall within the standards below. A = Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives B = Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives C = Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives D = Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives F = Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives
4MAT	20% of grade	
Outreach Journal	10% of grade	
Integrative Paper	40% of grade	
Course Interaction	10% of grade	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>100% of grade</u>	
Submissions will be due by 5 p.m. on the date indicated in the syllabus. Late submissions will lose a third of a grade per day late.		

Course Outline:

Module 1 – Introduction to Biblical and Theological Issues in Servant Leadership	Read Palmer & Zizioulis
Module 2 – Power and Servant Leadership	Read Greenleaf & Pfeffer
Module 3 – Leadership Styles and Personality	Read Nouwen; Team Paper or Project due
Module 4 – Suffering Servant and Kenosis	Read Bellinger & Farmer
Module 5 – Wesley, Accountability	Read Wesley & your choice of either

and Submission	Hesse or Peterson; Integrative Paper due
Module 6 – The Shaping of Servant Community	Read Bilzekian & Farrow
Module 7 – Serving in First Position	