Course Syllabus

KNP3732H

Congregational Leadership
Knox College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2023

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Stuart Macdonald
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Office Hours:	n/a

Course Identification

Course Number:	KNP373sH
Course Name:	Congregational Leadership
Course Location:	Knox College, academic wing
Class Times:	Wednesdays 11:10 – 1:00
Prerequisites:	students will be expected to be in their final year and to have successfully concluded their TFE placements

Course Description

The course will consider issues of ministerial leadership within the changed reality in which congregations in Canada now find themselves. After exploring that reality and some of the challenges posed by post-Christian Canada, the course will deal with issues of leadership and change, as well as introducing students to some of the basic tools of congregational studies. The course will build upon previous theological studies, including the experiences in Theological Field Education placements, in order to prepare students to transition to ministry.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

(TBD)

Resources: The UofT Library website has excellent links to help you, including help on writing essays, referencing, and how not to plagiarize.

Course Website(s)

- Quercus: https://q.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at https://q.utoronto.ca/ and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701. Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask Kylah Thomson kylah.thomson@utoronto.ca for further help.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Background expectations:
To succeed in this course students will need a background in ministry preparation, including having successfully completed their Theological Field Education placement.

In successfully completing this course, a student will be able to:
· Demonstrate ethical behaviour, taking responsibility for the expectations of course and showing respect and willingness to listen in the learning atmosphere including class discussions and small groups
· Demonstrate an understanding of the context in which the church finds itself today in Canada
· Demonstrate an introductory knowledge of the basic concepts of congregational studies
· Demonstrate a knowledge of issues in ministry, as discussed in the readings and class discussions
· Demonstrate an understanding of issues related to leadership, particularly as they apply to congregations and churches
· Demonstrate an integrated theology of ministry that engages contextual realities, the self as minister, and reflects biblical, theological and historical integration and awareness
· Demonstrate the skills necessary for graduate level study of the congregational issues
  · Gather and select information from reading appropriate to assigned tasks
  · Communicate clearly in both oral and written forms, using good organizational formats and proper research formats
  · Show a willingness to assess one's own work

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

1. Class **participation**: (20%)
Marks will be given based upon informed participation and contribution to the class discussion.

2. Short assignments (25%)

Leadership:

1. Write a short paper (6 pages, 1500 words max.) discussing a major leadership idea from one of the selected books. (10% - due **October 11**) Late penalty: 4% per week (2% by Thursday; 2% by Tuesday).

2. Do a 500 word book review of one of the following books for the *Presbyterian Record*.

(list of books will be provided - examples William Chris Hobgood, *The Once and Future Pastor;* Arhur Paul Boers, *Never Call them Jerks*; Eugene Peterson, *Working the Angles*)

(15% - due **November 8**) Late penalty: 4% per week (2% by Thursday; 2% by Tuesday).

3. Major Assignment (55%)

Summative exercise

(Details of this will be provided on the final course syllabi)

This paper should be no more than 5,000 words (20 page double spaced) and is due **December 6**. (No work will be accepted for this course after December 15, the last day of exam week.) Late penalty: 1% each day late after December 6.

Any work that fails to meet the above criteria in the individual assignments will receive a failing grade.

Grading System

> A+ (90-100)
> A (85-89)
> A- (80-84)
> B+ (77-79)
> B (73-76)
> B- (70-72)
> Failure

Completion of Course work: All course work (including any late work) must be completed by the end of term, the last day of exams. Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Basic Degree Committee and the Faculty.

Course grades. Consistent with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-1-2020
policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from http://www.tst.edu/content/handbooks) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871. A student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe College. https://tinyurl.com/ydbcge4q

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up a utoronto email address which is entered in the ROSI system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416‑978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses. The instructor (and TA) will seek to respond to any email in a timely fashion during the work week (Monday through Friday). Emails sent on the weekend will be replied to during the next workweek.

Style Guidelines for Papers: The papers in this class need to be written using effective English. Any sources used apart from the reading itself need to be referenced using the humanities format.

The Chicago Manual of Style is available online http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/16/contents.html

Cell Phones: Cell phones can be disruptive to the classroom experience. Students, therefore, should turn off or set their phones to silent and refrain from using them while in class. (This includes texting.) Cell phone use is permitted only for medical professionals who are on call and for students who need to be in constant contact with ill family members or minors. Students who meet either of these requirements should inform the professor prior to class.

Inclusive language policy: Students are expected to abide by the Knox College inclusive language policy. https://knox.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Knox-College-Policy_Use-of-Language-Policy-and-Glossary_221003.pdf

Use of Technology. Laptops and other computing devices may be used in the classroom for note taking purposes only. The use of the internet is not permitted while class is in session unless it is part of a specific class activity. Students wishing to text message, search for images, fact check etc. should do so during the break or outside of class. Much of the learning that goes on in the classroom is founded upon mutual disclosure that takes place between the instructor and the student and between students. Parties outside of that learning community have not committed themselves to this relationship of trust. For this and other reasons, permission to record lectures in audio format is granted for use by registered students only. Video recording is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Recordings and notes of class lectures may not be electronically reproduced, posted or distributed without the written permission of the instructor.

Consultation: Please do not hesitate to consult with either the instructor or teaching assistant about any questions you may have

Tentative schedule - Congregational Leadership course

Wk 1   Where we are (post-Christendom)?

Wk 2   Insights from Theological Field Education

Wk 3   What is a congregation anyway?

Wk 4   Insights from congregational studies

Wk 5   Insights from congregational studies

Wk 6   Congregations, presbyteries and administration - being a CEO

Reading week

Wk 7   Pastoral Acts (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) in a changing context

Wk 8   Clergy burn out

Wk 9   Leadership

Wk 10   Leadership & Change

Wk 11   Evangelism, Outreach and Worship

Wk 12   Quo Vadis?