



Italy Study Tour

Special Topics: Innovation and Leadership in Global Business

MGMT 4910/5910

Jeffery Smith, Ph.D.

Professor and Frank Shrontz Chair of Professional Ethics

(206) 296-5714 | smitjeff@seattleu.edu

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course outlines and critically examines some of the most important virtues of effective business leadership, including intellectual excellence, creativity, courage, and moral vision. Through cases involving prominent global business organizations, such as Nestlé and Volkswagen, students will assess how these virtues can be cultivated by leaders and how an absence of them can harm an organization or group's effectiveness. The travel portion of this course will afford students the opportunity to understand these virtues in practice, by visiting small and large global businesses in Italy, as well as through Italian intellectual, political and cultural history.

Central questions addressed in this class include:

- What are the virtues that underpin effective leadership in the global business environment?
- How can one cultivate the virtues of an effective leader?
- What is the role of ethics in effective leadership?
- What examples of effective leadership can we learn from the Italian business, politics and cultural history?

2. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Critically discuss and apply relevant concepts in leadership studies
- Develop and critically examine virtues for effective and ethically responsible leadership
- Experience and reflect upon intercultural experiences while traveling abroad
- Improve professional communication through written analysis and oral presentations

3. TEXTS

Gini, A. and Green, R. (2013). *10 Virtues of Outstanding Leaders: Leadership and Character*. Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-0470672310.

A collection of articles from sources such as the *Harvard Business Review*, the *New York Times* and other publicly available sources.

4. ASSIGNMENTS

Preparation, Reflection and Participation (20% of final grade)

It is expected that all students actively participate and contribute to an active learning environment by: attending all face-to-face, pre-departure sessions; completing all online, asynchronous course activities; completing all reading assignments and following all content-related material on Canvas; regularly

contributing to in-class discussions; being present and fully engaged for all meetings and site visits during the travel time in Italy.

Assigned Reading Reflections (20%)

Be prepared to turn in three online reflections (500-600 words) based on the assigned reading materials (or class discussions) as part your pre-departure work. These reflections will be available on Canvas and will also ask that you provide substantive engagement (100-200 words) with at least one of your peers.

Leadership Virtue Essay (20%)

All students will individually compose an essay of approximately 5-6 pages profiling a leader with whom they have worked and *selectively* examining—using concrete examples—which of Gini and Green’s virtues are exhibited by this leader. Students should feel free to profile and examine a leader from a work or professional experience, a student life role, an athletics program, community or public service job, or other experience where there has been a familiarity and engagement with a recognized leader. Full assignment details can be found on Canvas.

Leadership Conversation Essay (20%)

All students will individually compose an essay of approximately 5-6 pages that profiles and critically reflects upon an actual conversation held with an individual in a leadership or professional capacity, e.g., a co-worker, colleague, volunteer or service director, team leader or coach, using the methods of effective leadership conversations that we study in class. Full assignment details can be found on Canvas.

On-Site Research Presentation (10%)

All students are asked to complete a group research presentation on a topic relevant to one of our site visits in Italy and present the findings of this research during one of our meetings in Italy. Topics will be posted on Canvas in time for the first pre-departure meeting. It is expected that this presentation will be accompanied by 2-3 page executive summary of the presentation as well as presentation notes for distribution to the class.

Final Tour Reflection Journal (10%)

This written journal asks you to reflect on what you are taking away from this study tour by combining what you have learned through the readings, research, company visits, and cultural experiences through a daily journal and summary reflection. This final written assignment will be a combined task for this course and the marketing course that is being taught concurrently in Italy.

5. COURSE POLICIES

Electronic Devices in Class

Please put away and do not use mobile phones or other electronic devices during class. Please do not text, email, browse the web, or instant message during class. Exceptions to this policy will be announced by the instructor when appropriate or if there are special arrangements made in advance.

Class Participation

Class participation and attendance are extremely important, and students must come fully prepared. Each class session covers a large amount of material. Students are responsible for all information given during the class instruction. If students miss more than one session of instruction, a make-up assignment may be

required and incorporated in the student's participation grade, at the instructor's discretion. If the student must be absent, he/she should inform the instructor. More than one unexcused absence can adversely affect a student's final grade through reduced credit for participation.

Grade of "Incomplete"

An "incomplete" is not given for poor or neglected work. A grade of "incomplete" is to be granted only for very special reasons. The granting of an incomplete grade should occur only after a discussion between faculty and student, initiated by the student. The decision of whether or not to grant an incomplete is dependent on an emergency situation that prevents the student from completing (on time) the work necessary for the course.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor in unusual circumstances. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible when unforeseen or unique circumstances arise that may delay submission of an assignment.

Notice on Learning Disabilities

Students who have unique learning needs or require special accommodation for any disability, including a learning disability, chronic health problem or mental health condition, should notify the instructor as soon as possible, preferably the first session of class or before. They should also be in contact with the University's office for Disability Services located in Loyola 100 so that proper steps can be taken to facilitate learning. That office can also be reached at (206) 296-5740.

Office of Institutional Equity

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. This prohibition includes sexual misconduct, which encompasses sexual harassment and sexual violence. Seattle University remains committed to providing a safe and equitable learning, living, and working environment. Seattle University offers emergency, medical, and other support resources, as well as assistance with safety and support measures, to community members who have experienced or been impacted by sexual misconduct. Seattle University requires all faculty and staff to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator if they become aware of any incident of sexual misconduct experienced by a student. For more information, please visit the Office of Institutional Equity. If you have any questions or concerns, you may also directly contact the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Equity (oie@seattleu.edu or 206.296.2824)

6. COURSE SCHEDULE

Full details of the schedule, assignments, course expectations and other important announcements will appear on the Canvas site for this course. In between each in-person, pre-departure meeting, there will be substantial asynchronous learning materials and content to review and complete.

Pre-departure meeting 1: A Model for Leadership and Leadership Virtues (mid-June)

Pre-departure meeting 2: Leadership: Moral Vision and Courage (mid-July)

Pre-departure meeting 3: Leadership: Intellect and Creativity (early August)

Italy Study Tour: August 28-September 7