

School of Management

MMBA 545 CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

Trimester 2 2013

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

COURSE COORDINATOR

Dr Paul McDonald

Room: RH 931, Rutherford House

Phone: 463 5506

Email: paul.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz

Website: www.victoria.ac.nz/vms

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

Linda Walker

Room: RH 1004, Rutherford House

Phone: 463 5367

Email: linda.walker@vuw.ac.nz

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 15 July – Friday 18 October

Study Period: Monday 21 October – Thursday 24 October

Assessment Period: Friday 25 October – Saturday 16 November (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 26 July 2013.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 27 September. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an 'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late' including supporting documentation.

The application form is available from either of the Commerce Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures: Tuesdays – 17:40 to 19:30 – Government Building – GB G04

See Annex A for further details on scheduling of lectures.

Course Content

The Master of Business Administration Programme serves to educate professional managers, thereby enabling the fulfilment of strategic roles within corporate and government enterprises, including the exercise of leadership capability. The primary objective of this course is to enhance students' leadership potential by informing and challenging current cognitive, emotive and behavioural patterns.

There is a lot of talk about "leadership", but what does the concept really mean? More importantly, how can you as an individual enhance your leadership potential in a manner consistent with your personality, values and beliefs? This course will be an amalgam of theoretical insights, experiential exercises and introspective reflection. It is designed to allay constraining beliefs and barriers and enhance your confidence, understanding and ability to lead others. Each student will experience an individual journey, the outcome of which will be a function of his or her focus and level of participation in conjunction with readings, discussions, and experiential exercise assignments.

While theory will inform and guide our thinking in this course, its focus will be on the practical pursuit of leadership excellence from an individual point-of-view as manifested in the modern commercial context. It will attract students who want to take a "hands-on" approach to their leadership development, including involvement in activities designed to challenge beyond the realm of one's comfort zone.

Course Learning Objectives

On successful completion of the course, students should be able:

1. Have an understanding of your personal leadership style, including strengths and weaknesses;
2. Have a more in-depth conceptual appreciation for the complexities of leadership;
3. Have a set of skills designed to facilitate effective leadership behaviour; and
4. Be more confident, intellectually and emotionally, in taking a leadership stance.

The assessment for this course comprises two elements: 1) creation and maintenance of a leadership blog (50%), and 2) planning and execution of a personal leadership challenge project (50%).

Course Delivery

This course will be delivered in lecture and open-discussion format supported with on-line discussion groups using the course blog.

Workload

Workload expectations for this course are 10 hours per week for the 12 teaching weeks and 30 hrs during the mid-trimester break.

Prescription

This course draws on a variety of creative arenas, including design arts, theatre, music and film to facilitate personal development and insight. A creative exploration of the field of leadership emphasising an experiential, hands-on approach. Projects will involve both introspection and experimental practice, individually and in groups.

Readings

Readings will comprise current and classic articles from quality academic and practitioner journals, including Academy of Management Review and Harvard Business Review, and on occasion book chapters. In addition, the Course Coordinator will introduce a number of his own discussion papers for class consideration. There is no textbook for this course.

Assessment Requirements

Assessment Philosophy – The central proposition in the assessment design is that students need to participate in and practice leadership thinking and behaviours in order to identify, internalise and ultimately, grow personally. The assessment design will encourage and reinforce this proposition.

Assignment Types	Description	Weight	Date
1	<p>LEADERSHIP BLOG Your leadership blog will comprise an electronic online learning journal designed to help you achieve greater self-awareness as a leader and to share your learning and reflection. It is anticipated that some of your blog will be global, some accessible to your MMBA 545 classmates and some private to yourself and the course coordinator.</p> <p>The course coordinator will visit your blog and provide feedback comments during the trimester and a final mark upon completion.</p>	50%	See Annex B Key Dates MMBA 545 Leadership Blog
2 a	<p>PERSONAL LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE - PROPOSAL AND ACTION PLAN Presentation to the class of your proposed personal leadership challenge, including objectives, motivation, process, action plan and tangible outcomes. Your classmates and course coordinator will provide feedback.</p>	10%	Verbal presentation (5 mins.) to the class due at the lecture to be advised by class consensus. The goal is to have had everyone present and receive feedback prior to the mid-trimester break.
2 b	<p>PERSONAL LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE - LEARNING OBSERVATIONS Photographic presentation to the class of your completed project, including results achieved and lessons learned from a leadership perspective.</p>	10%	Verbal presentation (5 mins.) to the class due at the final lecture to share the results of your project (using only photographic evidence) and share your learning as to leadership lessons.

2 c	PERSONAL LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE - FINAL REPORT Submission of a detailed written report outlining your leadership challenge project, including its results and leadership lessons learned.	30%	Due by electronic submission by 5 pm, Monday, 11 November. Maximum Length: 8,000 words
	TOTAL	100%	

1. LEADERSHIP BLOG

Marks: 50%

Date: see Annex B for key milestone dates.

Your leadership blog will be of your own creation. There are two guiding assessment principles to follow: 1) it should be “creative” and 2) it should be about “leadership”. This is your opportunity to create something that has personal meaning of which there will be parts you will want to share and other parts that will remain private to yourself and the course coordinator, who will maintain your confidences. Each student is responsible to manage the access settings to their blog as necessary to maintain the confidentiality of their materials.

The leadership blog will be a mix of your own agenda (i.e., your learning journey in this course) and that of the course coordinator who will provide structured thinking exercises for your completion.

Structured Thinking / Reflection Exercises include: (see complete details on course blackboard)

- what does leadership mean to you (personally)?
- your personal obituary.
- the gift of my childhood.
- preliminary self-audit – the six faces of leadership.
- imagination – visionary leadership.
- self-analysis – the dark side of leadership.
- becoming a leader as teacher.
- speaking out on someone’s behalf.
- what are your values?
- self-audit – leader as spirit doctor.
- the servant leader within.

The operative word here is to “reflect”. Your response to these exercises should not be used to summarise other people’s theory as discussed in the course. They are an opportunity to delve into your own personal thoughts regarding the various discussion areas. You are invited to discuss the nature of these exercise within your study groups, but the actual write up and presentation in your leadership blog must be entirely your own work.

2 a. PERSONAL LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE PROPOSAL

Marks: 10%

Due: Date TBA (before mid-trimester break – dependent on class size)

The purpose of this proposal is to ensure that you are on the ‘right’ track for a timely and meaningful conclusion to your Personal Leadership Challenge Project due at the end of the course.

Please prepare a 5 minute presentation for the class and course coordinator which outlines:

- What you want to do?
- Why you want to do it?
- How will it challenge you leadership as a leader?

- How far outside of your usual comfort zone is it?
- How will you go about executing the challenge (including timeline with milestones)
- What do you expect to come out of the challenge in terms of tangible results?
- What do you expect to learn from the challenge?

You will receive feedback on your challenge subsequent to presentation.

2 b. PERSONAL LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE / LEARNING OBSERVATION

Marks: 10%

Due: Class Presentation (5 mins) on last lecture using only photographs of results received.

The goal of this course is to be much more than an abstract conceptualisation and intellectual discussion of leadership. Its goal is to be practical and hands-on. By the completion of the course you need to have completed a leadership challenge for yourself that will have “pushed you outside of your current comfort zone” with respect to your leadership behaviour.

Key Considerations in this Exercise include:

- degree of personal courage in the challenge,
- potential for personal growth and change,
- amount of effort put into the challenge,
- quality of reflection – post engaging in the challenge, and
- insights gained from the experience.

Come to class on the final lecture prepared to debrief us (5 minutes per person) as to your challenge and, in particular, share key insights and leadership lessons learned. This presentation is limited to photographs which demonstrate the results you have achieved (i.e. no written PowerPoint Slides).

2 c. PERSONAL LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE – WRITTEN REPORT

Marks: 30%

Due: Electronic submission to paul.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz before 5 pm on Monday, 11 November.

Prepare a comprehensive report describing your challenge in detail – including rationale for the challenge, how it was enacted, and lessons learned during the event, including things that you might do differently in the future as a leader. Your debrief report document will be for course controller consideration and assessment only. It will remain private and confidential. However, as mentioned, I would like you to be able to give a 5 minute debrief (item 2b) to the entire class as to what you attempted, how it worked out, and what you learned from the experiment. The class presentation (item 2b) is a public presentation and the written report is a private, reflective, introspective confidential presentation.

This document should be well-presented in Times New Roman font (12 pt) with 1.5 line spacing to a maximum of 8,000 words, not including appendices.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To meet Mandatory Course Requirements, students are required to:

- a. Create a Leadership Blog, designated parts of which will be accessible by the course coordinator and other parts by MMBA 545 class members;
- b. Complete a Personal Leadership Challenge Project; and
- c. Be an active member of class, including participation and listening to others.

Students who fail to satisfy the mandatory requirements for this course but who obtain 50% or more overall, will be awarded a "K" grade.

Standard fail grades (D or E) will be awarded when the student's overall course mark falls below the minimum pass mark, regardless of whether the mandatory course requirements have been satisfied or not.

Notice of Failure to meet Mandatory Course Requirements will be posted on Blackboard.

Penalties

In fairness to other students, work submitted after the deadline will be subject to a penalty of 5% of the total marks available per day of lateness. Exercises and assignments more than one week late will not be accepted. A "zero" mark will be applied. In the event of unusual, unforeseen circumstances (e.g., serious illness, family bereavement), students should discuss waiver of the penalty with the course coordinator prior to the deadline date.

Victoria MBA Grading Standards are as follows:

Excellent Category

A- (75 – 79%) to A (80 – 85%) to A+ (85% and above): The learning is demonstrated to a very high level of proficiency, i.e. it is at a standard that makes it exceptional at Master's level.

Very Good Category

B+ (70 – 74%): The learning is demonstrated at a high standard. Students have reached a level that clearly exceeds "competency".

Good Category

B (65 – 69%): The learning is clearly demonstrated without being exceptional in any way. Students can be thought of as fully competent.

Satisfactory Category

B- (60 – 64%): The learning is demonstrated without being exceptional in any way. Students can be thought of as competent.

Marginal Category

C (50 – 54%) to C+ (55 – 59%): The learning is demonstrated to a minimally acceptable level. There may be flaws but these are not serious enough to "fail" the student.

Unsatisfactory / Failure Category

E (0 – 39%) to D (40 – 49%): The learning is absent or performed to a very low level, or the performance is seriously flawed.

Referencing

There are many different styles of referencing and the Faculty of Commerce & Administration at VUW has decided to make APA (American Psychological Association) referencing style the common standard across the Faculty. The Commerce and Central Libraries hold the APA Style Guide. You can also access the information from the online VUW library site <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/library/research/reference/referencingguides.aspx>

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication

Information on course-related matters will be announced at class and posted on the **Blackboard** website at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/>. It will be crucial for you to regularly check Blackboard for messages, announcements and materials.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

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Course Content and Schedule

Annex A.

Lecture	Date	Topic	Readings
1.	16/7	Course - Introduction What is Leadership?	See web - blackboard
2.	23/7	Why, Who, When, Where Leadership The Deconstruction of leadership	See web - blackboard
3.	30/7	The Leader as Visionary The power of imagination	See web - blackboard
4.	6/8	The Dark Side of Leadership The Psychodynamics of leadership	See web - blackboard
5.	13/8	The Leader as Teacher The power of information	See web - blackboard
6.	20/8	The Leader as Ambassador The power of interpersonal skills	See web - blackboard
Mid-Trimester Break – 26 August to 6 September 2013			
7.	10/9	The Leader as Judge The power of integrity	See web - blackboard
8.	17/9	The Leader as Spirit Doctor The power of inspiration	See web - blackboard
9.	24/9	The Leader as Servant The power of introspection	See web – blackboard
10.	1/10	Personal Leadership Project Preparation	
11.	8/10	Personal Leadership Project Preparation	
12.	15/10	Personal Leadership Project Student Presentations (5 min) – Photo Slide Show and Discussion	This will be an extended class to run until all presentations are complete.

Key Milestone Dates – Leadership Blog**Annex B.**

Milestone	Date	Submission Requirements – by 5 pm
1.	23/7	Have Your Leadership Blog Set Up and Accessible Reflect on Exercise One: what does leadership mean to me (personally)?
2.	30/7	Develop Leadership Blog Further Reflect on Exercise Two: your personal obituary
3.	6/8	Develop Leadership Blog Further Reflect on Exercise Three: the gift of my childhood
4.	13/8	Develop Leadership Blog Further Reflect on Exercise Four: preliminary self-audit – the six faces of leadership
5.	20/8	Develop Leadership Blog Further Reflect on Exercise Five: visionary leadership – change in vantage point
6.	10/9	Develop Leadership Blog Further Reflect on Exercise Six: the dark side of leadership
7.	17/9	Develop Leadership Blog Further Reflect on Exercise Seven: becoming a leader as teacher
8.	24/9	Develop Leadership Blog Further Complete Exercise Eight: speak out on someone’s behalf
9.	1/10	Develop Leadership Blog Further Reflect on Exercise Nine: what are your values?
10.	8/10	Develop Leadership Blog Further Reflect on Exercise Ten: self-audit on leader as spirit doctor
11.	15/10	Final Submission - Leadership Blog Reflect on Exercise Eleven: the servant leader within
		Best 10 out of 11 submissions will be counted for assessment purposes.