Foundations of Christian Leadership
IDS 301
Location: Plaster #208
Fall 2026

Leadership Forum: The Ridge Leadership Forum
September 4-5, 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Amanda T. Walker—Director of Christian Formation
Office Location: Christian Ministries Center, #107
Contact Info: awalker@cofo.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Note: My door is always open, so please feel free to make an appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Foundations of Christian Leadership provides instruction on leadership principles with opportunities for guided personal reflection and group participation. The class material is presented over a weekend Summit that culminates with the completion of a group project. Students are encouraged through the course to apply what they learn in the campus environment as well as in the local community.

COURSE LEVEL AND PREREQUISITES

This is a 300 Level Course.

300 – Students will be expected to **apply** and **analyze** complex concepts of a specific area of study, which may or may not require the inclusion of knowledge from other areas of study.

Prerequisites: Foundations of Christian Leadership students must take Faithful Vocation and complete at least 45 hours.

TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Nouwen, Henri M. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. New York, New York: Crossroad Publishing, 1989.

Blanchard, Ken and Randy Conley. *Simple Truths of Leadership: 52 Ways to Be a Servant Leader and Build Trust*. Oakland, CA: Berrett-Koehler, 2022.

Enneagram Personality Test—Provided
5 Voices Assessment- Link

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate understanding of the foundations of Christian leadership by:

1. Identifying five leadership concepts in Henry Nouwen's book, *In the Name of Jesus*, and reflecting and rewriting them in five short paragraphs.

2. Listing ten (10) leadership lessons from Blanchard and Conley's book, *Simple Truths of Leadership*.

3. Developing and implementing a group leadership project.

4. Preparing a 10-minute group discussion on the leadership project and the leadership lessons learned.

ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENTS

1) **Attend The Ridge Leadership Forum**

2) **Reflection Summaries**—*Read* Henri Nouwen's *In the Name of Jesus* and ***reflect*** (short paragraphs) on five (5) leadership takeaways from the book.

   - **Due at the Ridge Leadership Forum**

3) **Book Takeaways**—*Read* Ken Blanchard and Randy Conley's book, *Simple Truths of Leadership*, and provide ten (10) takeaways. (These takeaways can be formatted as bullet-points.)

   - **Due Monday, October 5**

4) **Group Leadership Project**—During the Leadership Forum, each student will be assigned to a group. Each group will develop a leadership project. More information will be given at The Ridge Leadership Forum.

   - **Due Last Class Meeting**

5) **Group Project Discussion**—Deliver a ten-minute ***group*** discussion focused on Leadership Lessons learned through the project. This is a casual discussion-based presentation over a meal instead of a formal one. **Key focus: What did you learn? How did you grow in your leadership?**

   - **Due November 9—Last class period in the Christian Ministries Lounge**

GRADING SCALE

This course is pass/fail. Students will receive a passing grade if they:

1) Attend the Leadership Forum (The Ridge Leadership Retreat) on **September 4-5**.
2) Attend the following 7 class periods
3) **Actively** participate in class discussion
4) Engage with the reading, assigned reflections, and group project
5) Submit each assignment on time

ACADEMIC HONESTY

College of the Ozarks also expects and demands high standards of intellectual honesty from its students. These high standards require that dishonest work be rejected and that those students engaging in such work bear the consequences, which may include zero credit on assignments, failing course grades, probation, suspension, and/or expulsion from the College.

Cheating on quizzes, tests, examinations, or other graded exercises is (1) borrowing another student's answers, (2) providing answers for other students, (3) using unauthorized material during the exercises, or (4) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the College faculty or staff.

Plagiarism, or academic theft, is presenting the words or ideas of someone else, including artificial intelligence, as one's own in an assignment without giving them due credit as the originator of those words or ideas. A student is guilty of plagiarism if he or she submits as his or her own work a written or spoken assignment that contains words or ideas copied from another person's book, article, manuscript, notes, Internet site, calculations, translations, computer programs, artificial intelligence application, or any other source. Obviously, turning in another student's assignment or a paper totally taken from someone else's work is plagiarism. But it is also plagiarism to reword or summarize the words or ideas of another author and present them as part of one's assignment unless one gives the author credit. **Plagiarism occurs when a student uses a sequence of words or ideas without having digested, integrated, and reorganized the author's words in his or her own mind and without acknowledgment in the assignment.** It also occurs when a student presents work generated through artificial intelligence as the student's own work, without proper attribution to its source (ChatGPT or other AI programs).

Similarly, a student is an accomplice in plagiarism and equally guilty (1) if he or she allows his or her own words in outline or finished form to be copied and submitted as the work of another; (2) if he or she prepares an assignment for another student and allows it to be submitted as that other student's work; or (3) if he or she keeps or contributes to a file of papers, speeches, tests, lab work, or other assignments with the clear intent that they be copied and submitted as the work of anyone other than the author.

Students should keep paper and electronic copies of all their notes and all their drafts of assignments to help prove their authorship in case questions of plagiarism should arise.

HONOR CODE

All students must adhere to the C of O Honor Code, "I agree to be an honest, trustworthy, caring and responsible citizen. I will uphold these values in others and myself."

ATTENDANCE & COURSE POLICIES

To pass, students **MUST** attend the entire 24-hour The Ridge Leadership Retreat and cannot miss more than two class periods.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Center for Student Support and Success offers a variety of services to support students academically, personally, and vocationally. These include academic support, disability accommodation, and benevolence assistance.

If you have or think you have a disability and wish to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Sallie Hitchcock, Director of Student Support and Success, at hitchcock@cofo.edu or 417-690-2398. Early planning is important, so students are encouraged to make requests as soon as possible. If you have already received an accommodation memo for the current semester, please contact your professor to confirm receipt and discuss how accommodations will be implemented in this course. For questions about academic support or benevolence resources, or to schedule an appointment, please visit the Center for Student Support and Success, call 417-690-2398, or email hitchcock@cofo.edu.

CAVEAT

- **If you cannot attend the full Leadership Forum, please do not sign up for the class.** The Ridge Leadership Forum is held in a retreat setting and is fundamental to understanding Christian Leadership.

- The final class will be a dinner where we eat together, and each group will give a ten-minute presentation about their leadership project.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Leadership Forum: The Ridge Retreat

September 4-5, 2026—Students MUST attend the entire weekend. **Please ask for time off from work for those dates.**

- **The Ridge Retreat is held in the Tilmon Conference Room—Located in the Watson.**
- **Take the Enneagram and 5 Voices Assessment BEFORE The Ridge Retreat.**
- **5 Voices: Take the 5 Voices Assessment (Link)**
- **Bring your Bible.**
- **Friday, September 4–*In the Name of Jesus* reflections due.**

7 Weeks of Classes—Leadership Principles

1. September 14—Self-Leadership: Model the Way
2. September 21—Leading Others: Inspire a Shared Vision
3. September 28—Leading Change: Challenge the Process
    - **Dr. Justin Carswell—Guest Lecturer**
4. October 5—Servant Leadership: Enable Others to Act
    - ***Simple Truths of Leadership* assignment due.**
5. October 19—Four H's of Leadership: Encourage the Heart
6. October 26—Cultural and Emotional Intelligence
    - **Dr. Stacy McNeill—Guest Lecturer**
7. November 9—Group Leadership Projects Due
    - **Class Dinner in the Christian Ministries Lounge**
    - **Group Project Discussion Due**