Course Description:

The course material is organized around four themes – spirituality, integrity, authenticity, and competency – four key ingredients of effective leadership. The course begins with biblical principles of leadership and examines the intangibles of spiritual leadership. Attention is given to strategic planning, setting goals, directing programs, and evaluating results. Discussed along the way are case studies that deal with the challenges of contemporary church leadership.

Class Schedule:

Thursdays – 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- August: 20, 27
- September: 10, 24
- October: 8, 29
- November 12

Objectives:

1. To offer an overview of the biblical perspective on leadership.
2. To move the student toward authentic leadership through a professional leadership assessment process administered and supervised by a professional consultant.
3. To offer a comprehensive overview of foundational terms that will orient each student to the world of strategic planning and move them toward authentic and meaningful reflection, conversation, and influence in the leadership arena.
4. To offer an historical sketch of the development of strategic planning that will orient each student to its development as it occurred in time, contrasting classic and contemporary models of strategic planning.
5. To offer a working definition of the core elements of a basic philosophy of strategic leadership, flowing out of a theological foundation.
6. To have each student compose a strategic plan that integrates the core elements of strategic leadership for their current ministry context.
7. To integrate, when practical, throughout the course references to the leadership of the family.
Texts - Book List of Required/Recommended Readings:

Michael Youssef
*The Leadership Style of Jesus: How to Make A Lasting Impact*
Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon – Copyright 2013 (197 pages).
*Copies are free – can be picked up or on the first day of class or at RTS Receptionist’s desk after 7/15 if the student wishes to begin reading ahead (see Jonathan Stuckert).*

Peter Drucker
*The Effective Executive: The Definitive Guide to Getting the Right Things Done*

Will Mancini
*Church Unique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, Capture Culture, and Create Movement*

Various Assigned Articles – to be handed out in class

**Recommended (but not required for purchase):**

**RTS Leadership Course**

Writing Assignments: (All papers emailed into the professor must have your name and the specific paper assignment on the cover sheet)

1. **Personality Mapping** – With the help of a consultant, each student will be led through a professional assessment process that will identify the student’s specific leadership gifts, strengths, and style within the framework of his or her god-given personality. This will require each student to take several hours of assessment profiles in and outside of class, all of which must be completed by Thursday, September 24th. **Due Thursday, September 24th, 1pm.**

2. **Strategic Vision Plan for Ministry Paper** - Submit a minimum 5 page double-spaced paper summarizing a proposed Strategic Vision Plan for the church you now attend or for the ministry in which you are now involved. It can be for a specific department or aspect of the ministry that you now lead or serve in, not necessarily the whole church or ministry. **The approach each student takes with this assignment must be approved by the professor on or before Thursday, October 8th.** The paper is due on or before Thursday, October 29th, 1pm.

**Quizzes:** Lists of Strategic Planning Terms will be given in the weekly classes from which a brief quiz will be periodically emailed to the students and should be turned in the next day.

**Final Exam:** Depending on when the students want to take the it, the final exam consisting of terms from the quizzes and a few reflection questions on the course material will be emailed to everyone on or before Tuesday, December 8th and must be sent back on or before 5pm on Thursday, December 10th. The professor will offer the class the option to take the final early at the end of class time in mid November.

**Attendance, Grading, and Late Assignments**

*Class attendance and interaction* – 10% of the final grade – this includes active participation in all the classes. Missed class sessions must be cleared by the professor.

*Strategic Planning Terms Quizzes* – 10% - given periodically

*Personality Mapping Project* – 20% - Assessments completed by **Thursday, September, 24th, 1pm.**

*Reading of Assigned Texts* - 15% of the final grade - Each assigned reading requires a one page single spaced report highlighting the main theses as well as key principles and insights gathered from the reading.

*The Leadership Style of Jesus* – **Due by Thursday, September 10th, 1pm.** (reading it before the course begins is recommended, though not required).

*The Effective Executive* - **Due by Thursday, October 8th, 1pm.**

*Church Unique* – **Due by Thursday, October 22th, 1pm.**

*Strategic Vision Plan for Ministry Paper* – 25% - **Due Thursday, November 12th, 1pm.**

*Final Exam* – 20% - **Due: To Be Determined**

***Late Assignments must be cleared by the professor.***

**Course Grading Computation:** The standard RTS grading scale.
Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)
READING REPORT GUIDELINES

Your Name

Please limit your report to one typed, single-spaced page, and one paragraph per topic (Overview, Critique, Application)

Course Title & Number

Professor

Date

Title of Book

Complete Bibliographic Reference

Overview – Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

Critique – Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

Application – Offer some specific application to your own ministry – demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

Best Quote – Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

Did you read the entire book though fully (not merely skimmed)? Yes___ No___ % Read (0-100)
**MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Periodic quiz testing knowledge of foundational terms 2. Final exam tests overall comprehension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Classical leadership Models will be examined in the course but not in an in depth exegetical manner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. The role of God’s leadership will be considered as foundational to pastoral leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1. Class discussion centering upon the leadership style of Jesus will be very edifying</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Emphasis on strategic leadership integrating reason and revelation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Core strategic leadership involves preaching with clarity and enthusiasm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Worship is not an essential element of this course on organizational leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. This course will be built around all of the elements of shepherding, equipping, and encouraging congregational participation</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Periodic quiz testing knowledge of foundational terms 2. Final exam tests overall comprehension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Classical leadership Models will be examined in the course but not in an in depth exegetical manner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. The role of God’s leadership will be considered as foundational to pastoral leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Class discussion centering upon the leadership style of Jesus will be very edifying</td>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Emphasis on strategic leadership integrating reason and revelation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Class discussion on proactive servant leadership will emphasize the humble character of leaders</td>
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<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Core strategic leadership involves preaching with clarity and enthusiasm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Worship is not an essential element of this course on organizational leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. This course will be built around all of the elements of shepherding, equipping, and encouraging congregational participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Effective leadership involves being under authority of the church</td>
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<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
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Teacher/Professor: Dr. James Saxon

This course will be led by James Saxon, an ordained PCA minister since 1979, who has actively served in the pastorate for the last 35 years. He was converted to Christ at the age of twenty while a student at the University of Alabama. His conversion was so dramatic that he decided against going into the business world with his Marketing Degree and instead began pursuit of his call to pastoral ministry by enrolling in RTS Jackson in the summer of 1975. After serving as a youth director for two summers, and taking a year-long internship at the well-known Spanish River Presbyterian Church in Boca Raton, Florida, he discerned God’s calling to go into church planting. He was founder and pastor of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, in Tampa, Florida for 20 years and had oversight of the founding of one daughter church, Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Brandon, Florida. He joined the staff of the fast-growing, outreach-minded Church of The Apostles in Atlanta in the fall of 2000. Since coming to Apostles, He has served in a variety of staff roles and is currently Director of Outreach and Evangelism.

In addition to being a successful church-planter, James spearheaded the founding of the Southwest Florida Presbytery in the early 1990’s, and then led the effort to host the 2000 General Assembly in Tampa by that presbytery. He graduated from the RTS Doctorate of Ministry program in the spring of 2005, completing his dissertation entitled, “Empowering the Local Church through Mentoring” which featured a practicum that field-tested mentoring seminary students as a part of their theological education.

He is currently the director of the ministry initiative entitled ApostlesLife at Apostles, and has created an outreach course called Christianity Examined through which many lost people have been converted. This outreach initiative is a cutting-edge evangelism strategy that inculcates many current ideas and approaches that are successfully being utilized in soul-winning around the country. This strategy and much more will be covered in this course, which will be conducted in a hands-on, interactive atmosphere.

In the past, he has held multiple supervisory roles over the ministry departments and the staff at Apostles but is currently concentrating on building a 2 year follow-up process for new believers. Since 2005, he has served as guest lecturer at RTS Atlanta and teaches three courses - Leadership, Evangelism and Pastoral Care. Though he is currently involved in outreach ministry, he is a pastor at heart and his life ministry verse is Colossians 1:28, “And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.” He has been married to his wife Cindy for 33 years and has two single daughters, Natalie and Adrienne, who are in their mid-twenties.