

Principles of Leadership: Daniel and Nehemiah

Reformed Theological Seminary — Atlanta

04PT6228/1 — Spring Term, 2023

Instructor:

Carl F. Ellis, Jr.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A look at the people of God during their time as a cultural minority in Babylonian exile. During this phase in the life of Israel, the focus is on the faithful leadership of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah — how they navigated the cultural dynamics and stresses they faced as the Babylonians attempted to neutralize their prophetic witness — how the global purposes of God were accomplished through them. The time of transition from exile is also covered under the wise leadership of Nehemiah — how the restoration of the people of God was derailed by oppression and how he empowered them to overcome it and recover from it. Attention is given to the political, economic, social and theological events during their times (the 6th and 5th Centuries B.C.) and how these events speak to us today.

COURSE OBJECTIVES – At the end of the course, the student is expected to:

1. Articulate the major historical events in the Middle East during the 6th and 5th Centuries B.C.
2. Communicate how biblical leadership differs from its non-biblical counterpart.
3. Explain how the dynamics of leadership differ between dominant and subordinate perspectives.
4. Identify the major forces of opposition to leadership that is biblically defined.
5. Discuss how the people of God have been a cultural minority throughout most of history.
6. Elaborate on the nature of surrounding culture pressures biblically oriented leaders to conform to their agenda.

REQUIRED READING

1. Daniel 1-6
2. Boice, James Montgomery, *DANIEL (Expositional Commentary)*, pp. 13-72
3. Nehemiah 1:1-2:20, 4:1-7:3, 8:1-9:3-11:3a, 131-30
4. Boice, James Montgomery, *NEHEMIAH (Expositional Commentary)*, pp1-39, 49-78, 87-114, 133-142
5. Stott, John, *PROBLEMS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**
6. Viars Stephen, *LEADERSHIP: How to Guide Others with Integrity**

*The best price @ <https://www.wtsbooks.com>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Complete all reading assignments by April 29, 2023.**
2. Complete the final exam on Canvas by **May 13, 2023**
3. Submission of integration paper on Canvas due to on **May 13, 2023** — 10-15 pages

CLASS SCHEDULE

Dates: February 24-25, March 10-11, March 30 and April 1

Hours: Friday 6:00p-9:00p
Saturday: 9:30a-4:30p

GUIDELINES FOR INTEGRATION PAPERS

1. **CREATIVITY:** Evidence of personal insight into the content — 25%
2. **CLARITY:** Thinking and expression of thought clearly communicated — 25%

3. **CONCEPTUALIZATION:** Analytical skills evident — 25%
4. **CONTRIBUTION:** Practical and usable in ministry — 25%
5. **Format guidelines for integration papers**

It must be in *MS Word 95* or higher, *MS Word for Mac 2008* or higher, *WordPerfect X4* or higher, *or Pages*. If none of these will work for you a PDF is acceptable only as a last resort.

STUDENT EVALUATION

1. **Reading and participation accounts for 20% of the final grade.**

Students will report on the percentage of reading they have completed over the course of the semester on the final exam. If the student does not report the percentage of the reading they have completed, it will be assumed that they have not completed any of it.

Students in the Sync section of the course must participate in the online discussions in Canvas to receive credit for participation. There is a minimum of five professor to student interactions and four student to student interactions.

2. **The final exam accounts for 40% of the final grade.**
3. **The integration paper accounts for 40% of the final grade.**

- a. **Your papers should be posted into Canvas**
- b. If you chose to email it, please be sure to identify your e-mail as “**PL-DN-23**” — all caps

cellis@rts.edu

PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON THE DOCUMENT ITSELF.

- c. If you run into difficulty meeting the deadline, please email or call:

Carl: (423) 280-4183 (cell)