

# **Principles of Leadership: Daniel, Esther and Nehemiah**

**Reformed Theological Seminary — Atlanta**

**04PT6228/1 — Spring Term, 2024**

Instructors:

Carl F. Ellis, Jr.  
K.A. Ellis (Guest Lecturer)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the people of God during their time as a cultural minority in Babylonian exile, with special consideration also given to their forms of leadership under Persian rule.

During Israel's captivity in Babylon, 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 course also covers select readings from Esther (TBA) and considers the leadership of Esther and Mordecai over the Jews in Persia as they face rising hostility and potential genocide.

The time of transition from exile is also covered under the wise leadership of Nehemiah — how the restoration of God's people was derailed by oppression and how he empowered them to overcome and recover from it.

Attention is given to the political, economic, social and theological events during their times (the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Centuries B.C.) and how these events speak to us today.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES** — At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Articulate the major historical events in the Middle East during the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 sub-dominant 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. Vars Stephen, *LEADERSHIP: How to Guide Others with Integrity\**

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

7. Selected readings from Esther, TBA

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Complete all reading assignments by May 1, 2024.**
2. Complete the final exam on Canvas by **May 10, 2024**
3. Submission of integration paper on Canvas due to on **May 10, 2024** — 10-15 pages

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Dates: February 9-10, March 1-2, April 12 & 13

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 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.

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-DEN**” — 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)

### **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 Registrar’s Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

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. 49)