



**COS #124 – Transformative Leadership**  
**West Virginia Extension at Spring Heights Education Center**  
**September 17-19 and November 19-21, 2021**

Rev. Melissa Shortridge  
 1298 Washington Street E  
 Lewisburg, WV 24901  
 304.645.1357 (Office) or 304.667.3444 (Cell)  
[mshortridge@wvumc.org](mailto:mshortridge@wvumc.org)

**Goals for the course:**

This course forms the student’s identity as a pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, the United Methodist Church, and the world. This is a highly interactive course so be prepared to be actively engaged in the learning process.

**Objectives for the Course:**

- Identify and understand the attributes of good leaders, biblically and theologically.
- Evaluate and strengthen their own identities and skills as pastoral leaders.
- Explain and reflect on the nature of change in the local congregation and wider society.
- Implement visioning, strategizing, and planning process in their local congregations.

**Required texts:**

Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: Lewis A. Parks and Bruce C. Birch, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2004. ISBN 0-687-09285 – X (paper) ISBN 13:978-0-687-09285-7

Leadership and Self-Deception, The Arbinger Institute, San Francisco, 2002. ISBN-10: i-57675-174-0; ISBN-13: 978-1-57675-174-9

The Power of Positive Leadership: Jon Gordon, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ. 2017. ISBN – 9781119351702

The Strategically Small Church, Brandon J. O’Brien, Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, MI, 2010. ISBN 978-0-7642-0783-9

Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change: Goleman, Larry, Alban Institute, 2010; 9781566993760

## **Attendance**

The instructor expects timely participation of students; tardiness is a sign of disrespect to others. Extenuating circumstances should be reported to the instructor and COS Dean immediately. (see COS "Attendance Policy" in Student Handbook)

## **Assignments, Evaluation, and Grading**

All assignments are due and expected on time. If extenuating circumstances should cause you to be unable to meet a given deadline, you must contact the instructor before the assignment is due to determine a new deadline. Failure to do so will result in a lower grade for the assignment. Students will be evaluated on overall academic performance, written communication, and relational skills including class participation. Each writing assignment represents 15% of your final grade. Use the Basic MLA Format outlined in the student handbook for all written assignments. Class participation represents 25% of your final grade.

**Assignment due September 5, 2021:** Read [Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly](#). After reading the book, explore the theology of leadership utilizing the book and the books of 1st and 2nd Samuel. Be certain to read the full biblical story mentioned in each chapter for better comprehension. After reading the book and associated passages, write a 3-5 page paper describing your theology of leadership. Be sure to include aspects of call, equipping, purpose and accountability as part of the theology.

**Assignment due September 17, 2021:** Read [Leadership and Self-Deception](#). Write a 3-5 page paper describing three significant issues that can adversely impact leadership and steps that can be taken to avoid these pitfalls. Use references from the texts and bring the paper to class.

**Assignment due September 17, 2021:** Read [The Power of Positive Leadership](#).

Go to: [www.truity.com](http://www.truity.com) and take the free online Enneagram Test. Take a picture or draw the graphic of your results. Scroll down the page and take a picture or record your % for each area. You have the option to purchase a detailed report, but this will not be necessary for the class. Have a conversation with a person you trust to discuss the strengths and limitations of your personality. Submit a 1-2 page summary sharing what you have learned about yourself.

**Assignment due November 7, 2021:** Read [Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change](#). If serving a multi-point charge, select one congregation for this exercise. Talk with at least three people in the congregation asking the question, "What is the story of our congregation?" Recognizing there may be variations of the story, write what you believe is the primary story of the congregation. After telling the story, include a reflection on these questions: How does the story define your congregation? Why do you feel the story is retold? Does it empower or limit your congregation? Why? If you could tell a new story to the congregation, what would it be? Total paper should be 4-5 pages.

**Assignment due November 19, 2021:** Keep a two-week log of activities including but not limited to worship including preparation, visitation including travel time, teaching, leadership development, community engagement, family and personal time, meetings, and regular job (if serving part-time). Read [Strategically Small Church](#). Write a 3-4 page paper on insights you have gained from the process.