

**CLASS TIME: THURSDAYS 2-5PM**

**CLASS LOCATION: UNIVERSITY TEACHING CENTER (UTC), 2.120**

### **INSTRUCTORS**

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The Office of the Dean of Students  
Sorority and Fraternity Life  
Student Services Building, Suite 4.400  
Office Hours: By appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class is designed to facilitate the development of leaders within UT Austin sororities and fraternities. Through discussion and the shared experiences of class members, particular attention will be given to the leadership challenges that exist within the UT Austin sorority and fraternity community. In addition to covering broad concepts of leadership, we will focus on skills development in some of the following areas: community building, risk management, social justice, and community service.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this course is to enhance the personal and organizational growth of students by both educating and providing them with tools and concepts for leadership development.

As a student in this course, you will have the opportunity to do the following:

1. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the history, values, and mission of the sorority and fraternity council community at The University of Texas at Austin.
2. Students will engage and participate in community service and strengthen their awareness of civic responsibility.
3. Students will increase their knowledge on how the roles of individuals, groups, and communities can affect change within organizations.
4. Students will be able to identify important issues and challenges facing the sorority and fraternity community.
5. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of social identities and how they relate to the sorority and fraternity community.
6. Students will assess their leadership abilities and develop an action plan to improve their leadership capacity.

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7. Students will learn how to apply their sorority and fraternity experience to their future career goals.
8. Students will understand personal accountability as it relates to ethical decision-making and social responsibility.
9. Students will learn to collaborate with others through team building activities and group assignments.

## **REQUIRED READING**

### **TEXTBOOK**

Maxwell, John C., *The 21 Irrefutable Laws Of Leadership*. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition. Nashville, TN, Thomas Nelson, Inc. 2008. ISBN 0785288376

Sullivan, T.J., *Motivating The Middle: Fighting Apathy in College Student Organizations*. Tucson, AZ, Wheatmark. 2012 ISBN 9781604946901

## **GRADING**

Attendance/ Participation	14%
Going Greek	5%
Community Impact Reflection	8%
Time Tracker	5%
Council History Presentation	15%
Critical Issue Paper	15%
Critical Issue Presentation	10%
Cultural Immergence Reflection	8%
Leadership Packet	20%
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<b>Total Percentage Possible</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **GRADE SCALE**

(A) = 100-95	(B+) = 89-87	(C+) = 79-77	(D+) = 69-67	(F) = 59 and lower
(A-) = 94-90	(B) = 86-84	(C) = 76-74	(D) = 66-64	
	(B-) = 83-80	(C-) = 73-70	(D-) = 63-60	

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **1. ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION**

This class is intended to be a dialogue; therefore lecturing will be kept to a minimum. The primary goal of the class is to facilitate the application of concepts rather than the memorization of information. Consequently, assignments are designed accordingly and active class participation is deemed crucial to success. Active class participation requires a thorough reading of any handouts and completion of assignments prior to coming to class.

Should you miss a class, you alone are responsible for any and all missed information. If a student misses two (2) class meetings the student's course grade will drop a full letter grade. If a student misses three (3) class meetings the student will fail the course (unless there is a justifiable and documented reason). Should an emergency arise (illness, accident, etc.) that prevents you from attending a class session, it is your responsibility to contact the instructors before class. Class

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participation and engagement is extremely important for this class and you will be graded each week not just on your attendance but also your participation in class activities, quizzes, and discussions.

Absences related to sorority or fraternity events will not be excused. Students that arrive 15 minutes after class has begun or depart 15 minutes before class has been dismissed will be counted as absent.

**2. GOING GREEK**

Why did you decide to join a sorority and fraternity? This reflective and informative assignment will assist the class in getting to know each other, understanding each person's bond to his/her chapter and to each other through being a sorority or fraternity member at UT Austin.

**3. TIME TRACKER**

In order to fully engage in a conversation about time management, the class will invest one week in tracking how they spend their time. The expectation for this assignment is to allow the class to reflect on how the sorority and fraternity experience influences how the choices they make. The connection between time management and academic performance will serve as a key component to this assignment.

**4. COMMUNITY IMPACT REFLECTION**

Students will participate in a community service project with the entire class. A specific class day has been designated for this project. As a class, each student will participate, debrief and provide a reflection following the project.

**5. COUNCIL HISTORY PRESENTATION**

The goal of the assignment is to explore the formation of a council community on the UT Austin campus on a local and national level. This is a presentation for the class and the expectation is that you utilize relevant readings, interviews with members of the selected council, and assistance from the council advisors in your collection of information.

**6. CRITICAL ISSUE PAPER**

Students will research and write a paper focused on a critical issue facing the UT Austin sorority and fraternity community. This assignment will be evaluated on both the quality and content of the paper as well as how the issue is examined from the perspective of greek-letter organizations, councils, and the University. Each critical issue must be agreed upon by the instructors of the class for credit to be received.

**7. CULTURAL IMMERSION**

Students will be asked to immerse themselves in a cultural event that stretches their own personal boundaries. The purpose of this assignment is for students to experience a culture that is different than their own. Some examples could be: race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. Each cultural immersion event must be agreed upon by the instructors of the class for credit to be received. The cultural immersion will be a topic of a journal entry and students will share their experience with the class.

**8. CRITICAL ISSUE PRESENTATION**

In small groups, students will lead an in-class presentation about a critical issue facing the UT Austin sorority and fraternity community. Each student will contribute content to this assignment and the expectation is for it to build on the content from the critical issue paper assignment. This assignment will be evaluated on both the quality and content of the presentation as well as how the issue is examined from the perspective of greek-letter organizations, councils, and the University.

**9. LEADERSHIP PACKET**

The packet will include the following items to be developed by each student in consultation with the course instructors: a leadership definition, a self-assessment, an action plan and results as well as a

leadership journal and next steps.

**NOTE:** For more detailed information about these assignments please refer to the guidelines provided later in the syllabus.

## **COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE**

All communications devices are to be off during class, no cell phones, iPhones, Blackberries or laptops. If you anticipate a situation that would require you to use one of these devices, please contact the instructor prior to the beginning of class so appropriate arrangements may be made.

### **ELECTRONIC MAIL NOTIFICATION**

Official communication with students in this class will be conducted through e-mail. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current on class activities and assignments. Unless otherwise notified, the instructor will use the e-mail provided to the University as the official address. For more information read <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students with documented disabilities who require academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 512-471-6259 (Voice), 512-471-4641 (TTY) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone). This should be done as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining any authorized accommodations to be presented to the course instructors so that the appropriate accommodations can be provided.

### **SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of course failure and/or institutional dismissal. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Judicial Services (SJS) web site at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>

### **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

It is the policy of the University of Texas at Austin to provide an educational environment for its students that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. In accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment. Sex discrimination and sexual harassment will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students to promptly report sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more information, please call 512-471-9700.

### **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

Students who will be missing class or other required activities, including examinations, for religious observances should inform the instructor by the 12<sup>th</sup> class day. This will allow for arrangements to be made to complete any missed assignments. We encourage you to honor your cultural and religious holidays and with proper notification, students will not be penalized for missing class.

### **AN INVITATION**

Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the instructors so that we may get to know you and discuss how the course material relates to your personal experience. The more open the lines of communication, the better able we will be to meet your desired learning outcomes. Please feel free to email us with any concerns, questions, or comments.

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DATE	THEME	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
August 29	<b>Welcome &amp; Class Introduction</b> Students will understand the class expectations by reviewing the syllabus. They will also get to know each other and participate in group activities	Class Syllabus and Assignment Guidelines  Purchase textbook, <i>21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership</i>	
September 5	<b>My Sorority and Fraternity Experience</b> Students will prepare and present a personal story about their decision to join a sorority or fraternity. They will relate their values to this decision as well as incorporate the history of their organization.	<i>21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership</i> • Laws 1-7 Why Start with Why? Big R VS. Little r	Going Greek
September 12	<b>Community Impact</b> Students will execute a community service project in which the entire class will participate. This service learning opportunity will include a reflection component.	<i>21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership</i> • Laws 8-14 "History" Readings Philanthropy vs. Service	
September 19	<b>Leadership</b> Students will discuss leadership from their personal perspectives. They will also utilize the readings to assist them in identifying how these individual perspectives on leadership play a role in their ability to create change.	<i>21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership</i> • Laws 15-21	Community Impact Reflection  Bring 3 strongest/3 weakest laws that reflect you (6)
September 26	<b>What Does Scholarship Mean?</b> Students will discuss how they balance their organization with their academics. Students will then exchange different ways to hold each other and their members scholastically responsible.		Time Tracker  Council Presentations I
October 3	<b>Motivating the Middle</b> Students will discuss what it means to motivate the "middle third" of their organization. Students will utilize the book to assist them in identifying how these individual perspectives on motivation play a role in their organization.	Motivating the Middle	Council Presentations II
October 10 <b>OU/TX</b>	<b>What is your Brand?</b> Students will identify and discuss what their organizations brand is and the purpose and needs of the brand. They will also learn the etiquettes of social media for an organization.	We're Holding Out for a Hero: A Love Letter to Fraternity Men	
October 17	<b>Taking a Stand: Risk Management I</b> Students will participate in a risk management simulation during the class period. The class guest will join at the conclusion to discuss the legal aspects associated with the scenario and answer questions from the class on the topic of risk management and the law.	Beyond Policies and Compliance FPIG Policy	Bring your organization's risk management policy

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October 24	<b>Bystander Intervention: Risk Management II</b> Students will learn about Bystander Intervention Theory and discuss their role and responsibility of intervention.	Bystander Intervention articles?	Critical Issues Paper
October 31 <b>Halloween</b>	<b>Leadership Development Day</b> Students will engage in team building activities that will strengthen understanding the importance of communication, leadership, and organization.		
November 7	<b>Taking a Stand: Interpersonal Violence</b> Guests: Voices Against Violence Peer Theater  Students will discuss readings with the class and experience a scenario acted out by the class guests. This thought provoking performance will guide the class in further discussion on the topic of interpersonal violence.		Critical Issues Presentation I
November 14	<b>Creating Inclusive Communities: Social Identity, Race and Ethnicity</b>  Students will discuss readings with the class and participate in activities on the topic of race and ethnicity. These activities and conversations will guide the class in further discussion on the topic.		Critical Issues Presentation II  Cultural Immersion Reflection
November 21	<b>Creating Inclusive Communities: Gender and Sexuality</b> Guests: Gender and Sexuality Center  Students will discuss readings with the class and participate in a group activity that highlights gender identities and self-expression.		Critical Issues Presentation III
November 28 <b>Thanksgiving</b>	<u><b>No Class</b></u>		
December 5 <b>Last class</b>	<b>Values Congruence &amp; Wrap Up</b>  Students will reflect on the class as a whole and their sorority and fraternity experience moving forward. Conversations about how to translate lessons learned in their personal lives as well as with their organizations will challenge students to be stewards of the sorority and fraternity community at UT Austin.	A Call for Values Congruence	Leadership Packet (Sections 1-4 Due)  Course Evaluations

\*Please note that this syllabus is subject to change.

