

CLASS TIME: THURSDAYS 2-5PM

CLASS LOCATION: McCombs School of Business (CBA), 4.338

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 – call 512-471-9700 to schedule

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 of 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.
7. Students will learn how to apply their sorority and fraternity experience to their future career goals.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY 369 #10425
SORORITY AND FRATERNITY LEADERSHIP ISSUES
SPRING 2015

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*. 10th Anniversary Edition. Nashville, TN, Thomas Nelson, Inc. 2008. ISBN 0785288376

Spoon, Richard & Risher, Jan, *Team Renaissance: The Art, Science & Politics of Great Teams*, Lafayette, LA, Old Man River Publishing. 2013 ISBN 978-1-938222-00-9

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	6%
Quizzes	20%
Critical Issue Paper	15%
Critical Issue Presentation	10%
Cross Council Interaction Reflection	5%
VAV Performance Reflection	5%
Leadership Packet	20%
Total Percentage Possible	100%

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

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY 369 #10425
SORORITY AND FRATERNITY LEADERSHIP ISSUES
SPRING 2015

attending a class session, it is your responsibility to contact the instructors before class. Class 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. 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 we will participate, debrief and provide a reflection following the project.

4. QUIZZES

In order to fully engage in the readings throughout the semester, students will be presented with quizzes to test their learning comprehension.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. CROSS COUNCIL INTERACTION & VAV PERFORMANCE REFLECTION

Students will be asked to immerse themselves in a council event that stretches beyond their own council identity as well as attend a performance on campus on the topic of interpersonal violence. Each cross council event must be agreed upon by the instructors of the class for credit to be received. The VAV performance schedule will be made available to the class when posted to the public. These two reflection opportunities may be shared with the class.

8. 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 assignments on the class CANVAS site.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE

All communications devices are to be off during class, no cell phones, iPhones, Blackberries or laptops. 3

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY 369 #10425
SORORITY AND FRATERNITY LEADERSHIP ISSUES
SPRING 2015

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>

USE OF CANVAS IN CLASS

In this class we will use Canvas—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>—to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give you online quizzes and surveys. You can find support in using Canvas at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so please plan accordingly.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD. For more disability-related information visit: <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/current-students/>

- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).
- Please notify me as early in the semester as possible if disability-related accommodations for field trips are required. Advanced notice will permit the arrangement of accommodations on the given day (e.g., transportation, site accessibility, etc.).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Texas at Austin Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work unless specified as a group project with collaborative participation as part of the grading structure.

Students who violate University rules on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty and/or the Honor Code 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/acint_student.php

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 at least fourteen days prior to the date of the observance of the religious holy 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.

BEHAVIOR CONCERNS ADVICE LINE (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Q DROP POLICY

The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231:

"Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number."

EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

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.

**Please note this syllabus represents our current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.*

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY 369 #10425
SORORITY AND FRATERNITY LEADERSHIP ISSUES
SPRING 2015

DATE	THEME	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
January 22	Welcome & Class Introduction 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 Council History Presentation Purchase textbook, <i>21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, Motivating the Middle & Team Renaissance</i>	
January 29	My Sorority and Fraternity Experience 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws 1-4 Quiz Presentation Why Start with Why Big R VS. Little r	Going Greek
February 5	Leadership – True Colors True Colors is a model for understanding yourself and others based on your personality temperament. Students will discover their temperament and how it relates to their communication and interactions with others.	<i>21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws 5-8 “History” Readings Philanthropy vs. Service	
February 12	Bystander Intervention: BeVocal Students will learn about Bystander Intervention Theory and discuss their role and responsibility of intervention.	<i>21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws 9-12 Quiz Presentation Bystander Intervention articles	Bring your organization’s risk management policy
February 19	Community Impact 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws 13-16 	Assign Critical Issues G
February 26	Digital Identity 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.	<i>21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws 17-21 Quiz Presentation We’re Holding Out for a Hero: A Love Letter to Fraternity Men	Community Impact Ref
March 5	Taking a Stand: Risk Management, Campus Resources A panel of guests from campus will join to discuss the legal aspects associated with scenarios and answer questions from the class on the topic of risk management and the law.	Beyond Policies and Compliance FIPG Policy	Bring 3 strongest/3 weakest that reflect you (6)

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EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY 369 #10425
SORORITY AND FRATERNITY LEADERSHIP ISSUES
SPRING 2015

March 12	Motivating the Middle 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	Critical Issues Paper
March 26	Organizational Leadership – Team Renaissance We will focus on the nuts and bolts of leadership and dive into understanding the teams in which you work. Team Renaissance will provide strategies to employ within your team or help you identify areas to improve.	Team Renaissance, The Art, Science, and Politics of Great Teams Chapter 1-6	
April 2	Organizational Leadership – Team Renaissance We will focus on the nuts and bolts of leadership and dive into understanding the teams in which you work. Team Renaissance will provide strategies to employ within your team or help you identify areas to improve.	Team Renaissance, The Art, Science, and Politics of Great Teams Chapter 7-10	Team Renaissance Assignment
April 9	Creating Inclusive Communities: Social Identity, Race and Ethnicity 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 I
April 16	Creating Inclusive Communities: Gender and Sexuality 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 II
April 23	Taking a Stand: Interpersonal Violence 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 III Cross Council Interaction Reflection
April 30			
May 7	Values Congruence & Wrap Up 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 VAV Reflection

