MISSOURI S&T

Leadership Communication (Spring 2025)

Instructor Information

Instructor	Ryan Cheek, Ph.D.
Office	HSS 210
Office Hours	Mondays 9:30-10am & 12-3:30pm
E-mail	ryancheek@mst.edu

Course Information

Course Name	Leadership Communication
Class Number	SPMS 3265-101-72847
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2025
Time	11am-11:50-am MWF
Place	HSS 102
Instruction Mode	In-Person

GAI tools may be used to augment your learning process, not replace it.

When GAI is allowed you must verify and cite all claims and information appropriately. GAI are known to hallucinate. Do not blindly trust the information an AI generates. You must also not adopt generated content without reflection and revision to make it your work.

Course Description

This course explores various approaches to leadership with emphasis on the communication theories and behaviors associated with leadership in modern corporate and public contexts. Through case studies, you'll analyze how leaders connect with diverse audiences, navigate challenges, and foster collaboration. You'll gain practical skills in active listening, empathy, and motivational speaking, equipping you to lead with authenticity and make a positive impact.

Course Instruction Mode

Leadership Communication is scheduled for an "in-person" delivery mode, meaning "course content is

delivered in-person with the possibility of 0-24% being online to accompany in-person instruction." Approximately 11 class days will be re-assigned alternative time for students to meet outside of class in-person or online.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of key theories and models of leadership communication.
2. Self-reflect on individual strengths and areas for improvement as a communicator and leader.
3. Apply active listening and empathetic communication skills in leadership scenarios.
4. Design and deliver clear, persuasive messages tailored to diverse audiences and leadership goals.
5. Implement conflict resolution strategies to address and manage disagreements constructively.
6. Evaluate leadership communication scenarios for ethical implications and responsibilities.
7. Integrate evidence-based practices to enhance leadership communication effectiveness.
8. Facilitate effective group communication by leading meetings and guiding group decision-making.

Course Materials

All course materials are available for free online or through your campus library access credentials.No purchase is required.

Harrison, E.B. (2014). *Leadership Communication: How Leaders Communicate and How Communicators Lead in Today's Global Enterprise*. Business Expert Press.
Matkin, G.S., Headrick, J., and Sunderman, H. (2023). *Developing Human Potential: A Personal Approach to Leadership*. University of Nebraska – Lincoln. https://pressbooks.nebraska.edu/developinghumanpotential/
Pfeffermann, N. & Schaller, M. (2023). *New Leadership Communication – Inspire Your Horizon*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-34314-8

Course Policies

Late Work

Extensions for assignments can be negotiated with the instructor in advance of the deadline.

AI Writing

I genuinely don't mind if you use them. However, you must be aware of their capabilities--AI writers are not as smart as you. They cannot achieve our course objectives and content written by them alone will generally not be able to earn high scores on our class projects for that reason. Feel free to use AI to help you draft, polish your writing, or organize your ideas (or in any other way you see fit), but understand that contextual analysis and critical thinking must come from you, as these are not things the AI tools are equipped to do.

In this course, I will treat all AI-developed content as though it's written only by you. Note that many AI text generators "plagiarize" (that is, use verbatim text and paraphrased ideas without citation) very often. That means if you turn something in that you wrote using AI and the AI plagiarized the content, it gets treated just like plagiarism that you yourself wrote.

Communicating with the Instructor

Before contacting me, please check our Canvas site, course syllabus, and assignment descriptions for answers and clarifications. Outside of office hours, I may be reached via Canvas message or email (ryancheek@mst.edu). Polite and brief messages/emails will be answered first. Impolite and/or lengthy emails will be deprioritized. I will do my best to reply to all messages and emails within two business days.

Student Conduct

[Click here](#) for a full description of university policies regarding student conduct.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, generally defined, is representing work that has been completed by others as your own. Work that is found to be plagiarized in this course will result in an automatic failing grade for the course without the possibility of revision or resubmission, and the case will be reported to university authorities.

Appropriate Interactions

All students are expected to engage appropriately with one another and with the instructor. Appropriate engagement entails the creation of respectful, supportive, and productive learning environments at all times. Examples of inappropriate engagement include, but are not limited to: harassment (sexual or otherwise), bullying, retaliation, false reporting, threatening or intimidating behaviors, or any other interaction that creates a hostile or difficult learning/ working environment at an individual or group.

Grading

Letter Grade	% Distribution
A	90 and above
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

Course Assignments

Participation (30%)		
Attendance	Attend class on time, for the whole time, and be prepared to engage with the instructor, student peers, and the course material.	100pts (10%)
Skills Practices (x5)	Turn in evidence of skills practice	100pts (10%)
Dialogues (x5)	Write a reflection on your dialogue about the stimulus and that week's readings	100pts (10%)

Writing Assignments (35%)		
Fiction Book Report	Read and write a book report focused on drawing out what leadership communication lessons may be taken from the work.	100pts (10%)
Leadership Movie Analysis	Watch a movie that showcases leadership, write a 1000-word analysis of the communication challenges leaders are faced with in the film, and present your analysis to the class.	100pts (10%)
Journal Checks (x3)	Submit reflection journals three times throughout the semester. Each journal check (50pts) will be evaluated for completeness up to that point in the semester. Journal entries should follow the format and instructions provided in class.	150pts (15%)
Leadership Project (35%)		
Project Plan	Plan a service project and help your group members plan and execute their service projects.	50pts (5%)
Peer Evaluation	Evaluate the efforts and leadership of your group members	50pts (5%)
Self Evaluation	Evaluate your own efforts and leadership.	50pts (5%)
Project Presentation	Present your leadership project to the class	100pts (10%)
Group Meeting Reports (x5)	Write a report of group meeting activities.	100pts (10%)

Course Schedule (tentative)

*Note: LC = Leadership Communication, DHP = Developing Human Potential, NLC = New Leadership Communication

	Date	Theme	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	1/20/25	Introductions	MLK Jr. DAY---NO CLASS	Welcome to the course! Review syllabus.	Discuss DHP Chpt. 1 How I See Myself
2	1/27/25	Self-awareness	Discuss DHP Chpt. 2: Defining my personal values; and DHP Chpt. 3: Defining my vision & setting personal goals	Discuss Want to be a better leader? Read more fiction; and DHP Chpt. 7 Perceptions are Only from My Point of View	Skills Practice #1 is DUE (perception checking)

	Date	Theme	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
3	2/3/25	Foundations	Discuss NLC Chpt. 1: Leadership tasks, thinking and essentials for effective leadership communication	Discuss Aristotle and Leadership; and LC Chpt. 2 Leadership Is Communication	DIALOGUE #1 is DUE
4	2/10/25	Values & Virtues	Discuss DHP Chpt. 4 Communicating with Leadership Congruence; and NLC Chpt. 2: Why should leaders prioritize purpose?	Discuss What is rhetorical leadership? And discuss NLC Chpt. 8 How Companies Succeed in Creating New Values Through Sustainable and Authentic Communication	DIALOGUE #2 is DUE
5	2/17/25	Effective Communication	Discuss LC Chpt. 6 Listening: Where Communication Begins; and NLC Chpt. 10 Ground Rules for Effective Leadership Communication	Discuss LC Chpt. 9 Language and Presentation; and NLC Chpt. 5 Essential Communication Skills for Emerging Leaders	1st Journal Check is DUE DIALOGUE #3 is DUE
6	2/24/25	Collaboration	Discuss DHP Chpt. 5 Nonverbal Communication & Active Listening in Small Groups	Review Google's Project Aristotle; and discuss DHP Chpt. 9 Meeting the Challenge of Effective Groups & Team Membership	Group Meeting Report #1 is DUE Skills Practice #2 is DUE (listening)
7	3/3/25	Trust & Empathy	Discuss DHP Chpt. 6 Developing Trust & Being Trustworthy; and DHP Chpt. 10 Engaging with Empathy	Discuss and DHS Chpt. 8 Diversity and Inclusion; and DHP Chpt. 12 Leadership & Civic Engagement	Skills Practice #3 is DUE (ethos-building)

	Date	Theme	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
8	3/10/25	Crisis & Disaster	Discuss Leadership Under Fire: How Governments Manage Crisis Communication; and NLC Chpt. 7 Building Trust for Better Crisis Communication	Engage in a Crisis Simulation Exercise	Group Meeting Report #2 is DUE
9	3/17/25		Present Leadership Movie Analysis	Present Leadership Movie Analysis Leadership Movie Analysis is DUE	SPRING RECESS---NO CLASS
10	3/24/25	Social Media	Discuss NLC Chpt. 3: How leaders can be better communicators in the virtual era	Discuss NLC Chpt. 17 Ambivalences of Leadership Communication in the Digital Age	Leadership Project Plan is DUE 2nd Journal Check is DUE DIALOGUE #4 is DUE
11	5/31/25	n/a	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
12	4/7/25	n/a	Present Fiction Book Reports	Present Fiction Book Reports	Fiction Book Report is DUE Group Meeting Report #3 is DUE Skills Practice #4 is DUE
13	4/14/25	Motivation	Discuss NLC Chpt. 18 Transcendent Communication in the Company	Discuss NLC Chpt. 16 Unleashing Aspirational Capital	Group Meeting Report #4 is DUE

	Date	Theme	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
14	4/21/25	Conflict	Discuss DHS Chpt. 11 Managing Conflict Expectations	Discuss The Darkside of Leadership Communication	DIALOGUE #5 is DUE Skills Practice #5 is DUE (Conflict resolution)
15	4/28/25	Innovation	Discuss NLC Chpt. 11 Leadership and Innovation Communication	Discuss NLC Chpt. 30 Inspiring Leadership for Innovation; and Sam Altman's AGI announcement (2025)	3rd Journal Check is DUE Group Meeting Report #5 is DUE
16	5/5/25		Present Leadership Projects	Present Leadership Projects	Leadership Project Peer Evaluation is DUE
17	5/12/25	Finals Week	Leadership Project Self-Evaluation is DUE		

Missouri S&T Campus & UM System Policies

Statement about Copyright, FERPA, and Use of Video
It is vitally important that our classroom environment promote the respectful exchange of ideas. This entails being sensitive to the views and beliefs expressed during discussions, whether in class or online. Please obtain instructor permission before recording any class activity. It is a violation of University of Missouri policy to distribute such recordings without authorization and the permission of all who are recorded. More information is provided online.

Accessibility and Accommodations
It is the university's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. Student Accessibility and Testing provides services and accommodations that facilitate full participation in Missouri S&T's learning experience for students with disabilities. If you anticipate or experience physical, academic, and/or digital barriers due to a disability, please contact Student Accessibility and Testing at (573) 341-6655, email dss@mst.edu, or visit https://saat.mst.edu/ for information.

Student Honor Code and Academic Integrity
·   All students are expected to follow the Standard of Conduct and Honor Code.
·   The Standard of Conduct defines the behavioral expectations of all students and student organizations with clear descriptions designed to protect a specialized educational environment conducive to learning. This environment promotes learning while fostering integrity, academic success, personal and professional growth, and responsible citizenship.
·   Additional resources regarding academic integrity are available online.

Student Mental Health and Well-Being
 Your well-being is important, and it contributes to your success in this course. At S&T, we provide resources to support your mental, physical, and social well-being. Any of us can experience challenges that make learning difficult. If you are struggling, take advantage of the following resources offered by the university:

 Student Well-Being (https://wellbeing.mst.edu/)
Student Well-Being provides counseling services, health promotion initiatives, and prevention programs to empower the S&T community to thrive and enhance personal, academic, and professional success. Department office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. On the website, you can find information related to confidential individual and group counseling, wellness consultations and trainings, case management services, resources for many health and wellness topics, and help for mental health crisis situations. For the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call or text 988, or visit missouri988.org.

[Health and Well-Being Canvas Course](https://umsystem.instructure.com/enroll/G3LY3G)

(https://umsystem.instructure.com/enroll/G3LY3G)
The Health and Well-Being Canvas Course features trainings, presentations, and other health and well-being resources for students. The course is free for all students, is non-credit, and students can enroll at any point in the semester.

Student Emergency Fund (SEF)

The SEF is administered by the Division of Student Success to help ensure Missouri S&T students have access to the support and resources they need to successfully recover from an unforeseeable financial emergency. The goal of this fund is to prevent one small emergency or unexpected expense from derailing a student's progress toward degree completion.

Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Title IX

Missouri S&T is committed to the safety and well-being of our campus community, and to creating an environment free from discrimination and harassment.

The University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, protected veteran status, and any other status protected by applicable state or federal law. As used in this policy, the word "sex" is also inclusive of the term "gender."

Additionally, US Federal Law Title IX states that no member of the university community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Sexual harassment violations of this law include quid pro quo, hostile environment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. The U.S. Department of Education has stated the prohibition on discrimination on the basis of sex includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

Students who are experiencing pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, including the birthing parent and non-birthing parent, have rights protected under Title IX. Students should contact Student Accessibility and Testing or the Office of Equity and Title IX to learn more about their rights and pregnancy-related assistance/accommodations provided by the University to ensure equitable access to University educational programs and activities.

In accordance with the University of Missouri's Collected Rules and Regulations, all faculty and staff are required to report any information concerning discrimination disclosed through communication including, but not limited to, direct conversation,

email, social media, classroom papers and homework exercises to the Equity Officer/Title IX Coordinator.

For more information regarding support for those that have been impacted or to report an incident of discrimination or harassment as defined by Chapter 600 of the University's Collected Rules and Regulations, visit the Office of Equity and Title IX or visit their website at equity.mst.edu.

Office of Equity and Title IX
 Equity Officer and Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Paul Hirtz
 Phone: (573) 341-7734
 Location: 900 Innovation Drive, Suite 500
 E-mail: equity@mst.edu

Classroom Egress Maps
For all in-person instruction, faculty should explain where the classroom emergency exits are located. Classroom egress maps are posted at http://designconstruction.mst.edu/floorplan/.

University Libraries
The library provides students and faculty with physical and electronic books, journals, articles and databases as well as recreational reading and video materials. You can also check out laptops, calculators, tool kits and more and reserve study or meeting rooms. Talk to us one-on-one via chat, email, phone or in person for any assistance regarding library services or finding peer-reviewed, credible research materials for study and research needs. Find out more information about the library here: library.mst.edu.

Writing and Communication Center
The Writing and Communication Center's mission is to assist all students in their efforts to become better writers, communicators, and critical thinkers. The Center's peer consultants and coaches provide free individualized one-on-one and small-group conversations to offer meaningful feedback and guidance to students across all disciplines. More information can be found on our website, through email: writing@mst.edu or stop by Curtis Laws Wilson Library 314–315.

Student Success Center
The Student Success Center (SSC) offers peer tutoring and success coaching to help students succeed in their academic goals. Additionally, we work as a resource hub and can connect you to the campus resources necessary to help you dig deeper

and finish the semester strong. Visit the SSC in Room 117 Innovation Lab and contact us at ssc@mst.edu or 573-341-7590. To learn more about the SSC, visit https://ssc.mst.edu/

S&T Tutoring Opportunities
The Student Success Center (SSC) helps you with your studies in three ways:
· **LEAD Drop-in:** Our LEAD Drop-in service provides convenient access to experienced peer learning assistants for a multitude of courses across campus. No appointments necessary. Simply check our tutoring schedule to discover when support for your specific course is available: https://ssc.mst.edu/leaddrop-in/
· **LEAD Group Sessions:** Our LEAD Group sessions offer after-hours group tutoring, facilitated by our dedicated peer learning assistants in partnership with faculty members. Explore the LEAD Group schedule to see if your course is featured and join us at the next session: https://ssc.mst.edu/leadgroup/
· **Knack Tutoring:** If your schedule clashes with our LEAD offerings, or if your course isn't covered, Knack is your solution. Request a tutor for either a virtual meeting or an in-person session on campus, ensuring you get the help you need, when you need it. To sign up for your FREE Knack account, visit: https://ssc.mst.edu/knacktutoring/

Military & Veterans Services Center (MVSC)
The Military & Veteran Services Center at Missouri S&T is dedicated to supporting those who have served, are currently serving, and those who aspire to serve in our nation's armed forces, along with their families. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment that empowers military-connected students to achieve their educational and personal goals. Through tailored resources, academic and career support, and community connections, we aim to enhance the success and well-being of service members, veterans, and their loved ones as they transition into and thrive within higher education here on campus.