DPLS 774 Servant Leadership: Reading, Writing, & Practicing

Summer 2009  1 Credit

Course Dates June 19 and 20
The servant leader is servant first. It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. The best test and the most difficult to administer is: Do those served grow as persons? Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And what is the effect on the least privileged in society; will they benefit or, at least, not be further deprived? -- Robert K. Greenleaf, from The Servant as Leader

COURSE TEACHERS
Dr. Shann Ferch and Larry C. Spears, President, The Spears Center for Servant-Leadership

COURSE DESCRIPTION
With great pleasure, Dr. Shann Ferch, Professor of Leadership at Gonzaga University would like to take a moment in the course description to introduce Larry Spears, the co-teacher of this course. Dr. Ferch states, "We are so honored to have Larry Spears teaching in our leadership programs at Gonzaga. Larry is the foremost authority on servant-leadership in the world. His 10 books on the subject have not only served to illumine the life and work of the contemporary founder of servant-leadership, Robert K. Greenleaf, they have also given readers, writers, and practitioners a profound depth of wisdom, practical application, and soulful understanding on a leadership way of life that has begun to unseat the traditional command and control leadership methodologies and in turn evoke in society the capacity for self-transcendence and individual and collective responsibility across all spectrums of human endeavor. Over the past twenty years as both writer and editor, Larry Spears has helped shape our understanding of servant-leadership and raised global awareness of Robert K. Greenleaf's original writings. Spears's conception of the 10 characteristics of servant-leadership, gleaned from his in-depth study of Greenleaf's works, has become a significant and enduring contribution to the field worldwide. His past years leading the Greenleaf Center and his current role as president of the The Spears Center for Servant-Leadership have propelled a healthy and robust groundswell of servant-leadership in the United States and abroad. A direct reflection of this can be seen in significant quantitative and qualitative research on servant-leadership, underway in Europe, Australia, North and South America, and Asia, as well as in Fortune Magazine's annual list of the 100 Best Companies to Work For. Many of the top 20 organizations in Fortune's list are purposefully servant-led companies, including Starbucks, Southwest Air, and TDIndustries. Perhaps most importantly, his focuses on the interior of the leader, listening, and foresight, have become foundational to personal and organizational discernment in servant-leadership. Please join me in welcoming Larry Spears to our community of leaders and learners at Gonzaga University."

This special, 1 semester credit, weekend course has been created specifically for the Doctoral Program in Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University with readers, writers, and practitioners of servant-leadership in mind. It has three key elements:
1. Reading and Understanding Larry C. Spears' & others' writings on Servant-Leadership
2. Developing Your Own Creativity and Writing About Servant-Leadership
3. Understanding and Practicing Servant-Leadership

COURSE GOALS
Through participation in this course, students will have more knowledge of the concepts of servant leadership, strengthened ability to articulate a personal, servant-leadership philosophy, and increased understanding of the ideas of Robert K. Greenleaf and Larry C. Spears, and creative expression of servant-leadership through your own writing project.

COURSE COMPETENCIES
Evidence of having mastered the competencies will be demonstrated by students who:
• Articulate the philosophy of servant-leadership
• Demonstrate an understanding of key ideas contained in the works of Larry Spears & Robert Greenleaf
• Communicate your own thoughts and insights through writing a paper

COURSE MATERIALS
The following readings are required:

(A). Books

(b). Essays, Journals, Monographs

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
• The course readings are to be completed prior to June 19.
• Active participation is encouraged during the weekend class of June 19-20.
• A 12-15 page paper (with citations) demonstrating the student's insights into servant-leadership and drawing upon the readings and dialogue will be due July 2. To form part of the basis of understanding critical depth in writing your paper, please read the following article on how to write a scholarly paper: http://www.gonzaga.edu/Academics/Colleges-and-Schools/School-of-Professional-Studies/Ph.D.---Leadership-Studies/SupportFiles/doctrinal-scholarly.doc
COURSE SCHEDULE (Summer, June 19-20, 2009)

Friday, June 19, 6-10 p.m.
- Reception/Getting Acquainted
- Overview
- Insights on the Servant-Leadership Books by Bob Greenleaf as created and edited by Larry Spears
- Insights on creating social change through writing and editing
- Servant-Leadership Videos
- "Servant-Leadership," segment from NBC DATELINE, 2004
- "It's a Wonderful Life: Leading Through Service," Margaret Wheatley, 1999
- Dialogue
- Adjourn

Saturday, June 20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Breakfast/Getting Started
- Insights from the Servant-Leadership Anthologies edited by Larry Spears
- Insights from Servant-Leadership writings by Larry Spears
- Understanding when to go wide, and when to go deep in servant-leadership writing and editing
- Insights on Servant-Leadership Writings from The 2008 International Journal of Servant-Leadership (Shann Ferch & Larry Spears)
- On Writing, Editing, and Servant-Leadership (Shann Ferch & Larry Spears)
- Brainstorming session on paper topic ideas
- Closing