

LEADERSHIP FUNDAMENTALS

Professor: Ryan Newton, M.Ed.

Hi everyone, I'm Ryan Newton. I'm your instructor for LDR 2010: Leadership Fundamentals. Welcome, and I hope that you'll enjoy this course this semester. A little bit about myself, so you all know who your instructor will be, I graduated from Kansas State in 2008, with a degree in Advertising, and a minor in Leadership Studies. So as you go through this course, and if you continue on with the Leadership minor at USF, I'll be able to help you kind of understand some of the implications for your personal and professional life-- and even academic life-- with the Leadership minor.

I also earned my Master's degree in College Student Affairs from the University of South Florida, here in 2012. And so I am a USF Bull myself. Go Bulls. And we hope you'll enjoy the rest of this course. So, Leadership Fundamentals is an interesting course, because it is one that not only applies to maybe your specific major, but can also apply to every aspect of your life. We're going to talk about relationship building, we're going to talk about decision making, we're going to talk about ethics, and the role that that plays in everyday life.

So, what you'll find is we have this course, you're going to learn about things that apply directly to things you're experiencing on a daily basis. Decisions you might make as a student, from joining a club, or a particular organization, or being the president of the Student Government Association, to what your professional career may be someday. If you aspire to be a CEO, you're going to have to make some tough, difficult decisions some day.

And you're going to look back on this leadership course, and hopefully remember some of the things that we talked about in here that laid the foundation for how you're going to be a successful leader, and successful person for years to come. Leadership is designed as a conversation. It is a relationship, and we'll talk about that as we get into the course, and go into much more detail on that.

But as such, one my expectations for the students-- for you all-- is to always remember to engage, and be interactive in this course. I know being an online student can sometimes have its challenges, and sometimes it makes it a little more difficult to have that meaningful conversation with people. But my hope is that you'll find this course has been set up in a discussion-based format. So you'll be in small groups, and you'll be able to communicate with your small group partners. You'll start to build a relationship with them, and learn a little bit from them, and engage back and forth with each other.

That's a really important piece of this course, and without that, I don't know that you'll get everything out of it that you might hope to. So my expectation for you is to be here, and be engaged, and take ownership of your own education. I'll give you all the materials and resources you need to learn, and be successful. But really applying it, is going to come up to you. And if you have those conversations with your classmates, I think you'll do just fine.

So that's a quick overview of the course. I just want to let you all know, if you ever need to meet, you can certainly schedule an appointment with me by just reaching out to me. My contact information is on the syllabus, which you can find on Canvas. I'm looking forward to a great semester with all, and having some great conversations, and I hope to see you soon.