

## **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LEADERSHIP**

*Instructor: Danielle McDonald*

Welcome to our class Contemporary Issues in Leadership. I will be your instructor this semester. My name is Danielle McDonald. Currently, I serve as the associate dean for students here at USF. I've been here for three years. I've worked in higher education for over 20 years at five different universities.

During the day, as the associate dean for students, I work with a team of people who are responsible for your out-of-classroom experience. We work in areas like student involvement, student leadership, student government, and, community expectations. And then as the dean for students, I work to mitigate and remove barriers to your academic success.

This is the third semester I've taught this class, and the first one online. So thank you so much for being my Guinea pigs the semester. So this class is going to be a little different than a lot of the other leadership classes you've taken and probably very different than a lot of the other academic classes that you have taken. We are going to approach leadership by analyzing current issues and by using documentaries and reading assignments to analyze leaders out there in a real-time contemporary strategy.

So you'll see that we will not be teaching leadership modules. We will not be teaching leadership theory and leadership foundations. You'll get that from other leadership classes throughout the minor. This class really takes a case-in-point, day-to-day aspect of analyzing leadership issues out there.

So you'll do that through-- we do have a book that you'll be reading, and that'll talk about different issues going on in leadership. But really, the bulk of the class is going to be in watching documentaries, where we really use those as case studies and talking about what are the leadership issues going on, how are the leaders handling those issues, and then really analyzing the perspectives that those documentaries are taking. This is a class that the expectation is for everyone to participate, and for you to bring in your ideas, bring in different events that you think are going on that need to be discussed, and for all of us to be learning together. I look forward to getting to know you. I look forward to our challenges and challenging each other along the way, and really working with you to learn how to be better leaders in our society.