

Organization Leadership and Change Management

Charles Heckscher

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This course examines issues of leadership in rapidly-changing organizations, with a particular focus on leadership of teams at the middle levels.

Over the last few decades, there has been movement away from the bureaucratic, top-down models of organization which dominated most of the 20th century, towards images of networks and flexible teams that are more suited to dynamic environments. This change is still in its early stages: bureaucracy is widely unpopular, but there is no settled idea of what should replace it. Leaders must wrestle with conflicting expectations and a lack of clarity about their roles.

For information about the instructor, see www.heckscher.com

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Expectations for student work:

1. Weekly:

- a. Reading / viewing: You will read or view weekly materials which may include articles, videos, slide presentations, and other media.
- b. Forums: In most weeks there will be a forum based on the readings and cases. You will need to **post your own analysis** by noon on Sunday, and then to **engage actively in discussions and exercises** with your team based on those materials. Each person will lead at least one team discussion.

In some weeks there might instead be team assignments, such as a group paper, exercise, or presentation.

2. Leadership:

You will be assigned to lead (approximately) two forums. That will involve facilitating the discussion, encouraging teammate involvement, and summarizing the main points. You will write journal entries on this experience -- your leadership style and how it worked.

3. Individual project, due at the end of the course:

You will **write a case study**, using concepts and lessons from the course. This may be based on your personal experience, or on research. In most weeks you will write a paragraph or two in your case document applying the week's concepts to your case situation. The final version should be about 10-12 pages long (or 2500-3000 words), due on the last day of class.

4. Quizzes

There will be **two short quizzes** -- 10-15 minutes each -- to test knowledge of the basic concepts, based on the readings and discussions.

Grades

The weekly work (#1 above) and the individual case (#3) will each count for 40% of the grade; the two quizzes together will count for 20%.

Course materials:

Most course materials will be available directly from links on the assignment sheets, without charge; some will need to be purchased from a [Harvard Business School course pack](#). Harvard Business Review articles can also be obtained from the Rutgers library, and are marked as “optional” in the course pack.

Notes on virtual work and scheduling

Wednesday at midnight will be considered “class time”, the deadline for all weekly homework. Forums will end and other assignments will be due at that time.

Students sometimes have difficulty scheduling their work in virtual courses. You should expect to do approximately 8 hours of work per week¹ -- a mix of reading, forum discussions, individual writing, and team exercises. You will need to work on the course several times in any given week.

I recommend setting up the following schedule for yourself.

- You should check the Canvas site for readings and other assigned material on Wednesday and complete them **by Saturday** (this should take 2-3 hours).
- By **Sunday at noon** you must (in most weeks) submit on your forum a 1-2 page response to the questions posed by the professor (this should take 1-2 hours).
- You must check the forums again for updates and respond again at least once **by Tuesday night** (allow another hour to read posts and enter responses.)
- You should leave an hour or so each week to focus on your individual case development.
- **When you are a forum leader**, you will also need to start the team’s discussion on Sunday afternoon, summarize it on Wednesday, and be especially active in guiding it. You will also write a brief reflection on what you learned from it. This will add 1-2 hours.

Late submissions

I will accept late submissions with a reasonable excuse; except for emergencies you must let me know *in advance*. I am generally willing to work things out when there are crises.

¹ This is in accord with [governmental standards of program integrity](#), CH-A3 & CH-A4.

Class schedule and topics

The next few assignments have links that lead to the assignments - so you can work ahead. Things may change after that.

There are two due dates for forum assignments: Sunday night for the first forum post, and Wednesday night for the close of the week.

Week	Assignment due dates (midnight)	Subject
1.	Jan 19	Introduction: the changing context
2.	Jan 23 & 26	Bureaucratic and collaborative models of organization
3.	Jan 30 & Feb 2	Virtual work and leadership
4.	Feb 6 & 9	Leadership styles
Leading teams		
5.	Feb 13 & 16	Power and influence
6.	Feb 20 & 23	Purpose
7.	Feb 27 & Mar 2	Process
8.	Mar 6 & 9	Managing conflict
Leading organization change		
9.	Mar 20 & 23	Culture and change leadership
10.	Mar 27 & 30	The view from the middle: distributed leadership
11.	Apr 3 & 6	The good of employees
12.	Apr 10 & 13	The future of organizations
Thanksgiving break		
13.	Apr 17 & 20	Discussion of your individual cases (posters)
14.	May 1	Close (final paper due)

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SMLR learning objectives:

Theoretical Perspectives: Demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories and apply them given the background context of a particular work situation. Students will identify and assess key theoretical aspects of organization change initiatives; examine some successful and unsuccessful initiatives; and apply theory regarding the role of leadership in change initiatives at both the organization and the team level

Plagiarism (academic integrity):

Academic integrity is central to University life. Violations will get you in a lot of trouble. There's [a long University document](#) as well as [other resources](#) on academic integrity, but it boils down to this:

You must cite all material that is drawn from others, including other students or professors as well as published sources.

Direct quotations must be identified by quotation marks *even if they're cited.*

Don't cut and paste from the Internet without putting it in quotes! This trips up some students, and can be serious.

I am not very concerned with the exact form of your citation, as long as you make clear where a quote or passage came from.

Studying together is encouraged; but if answers from different students are the same or nearly the same it will be considered cheating. You should discuss the issues but not discuss detailed answers with each other.

Exams and papers will be submitted to Turnitin.com for comparison with others in this course, as well as with past exams from this course and with paper-writing services, other publications, and web sources.

The fine print

Academic integrity

Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Joint efforts are legitimate only when the assistance of others is explicitly acknowledged and permitted by the assignment. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the University community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses. Any such issues will be submitted to the Dean of the Labor Studies and Employment Relations Department, as appropriate. Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Students are also expected to report incidents of academic dishonesty to the instructor or dean of the instructional unit. Students are expected to abide by the Rutgers University Code of Student Conduct. They are to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity.

The Rutgers academic integrity policy can be accessed at this link:

http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Disability services

From the Office of Disability Services:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.