Course Title: Leadership in STEM & Business: The London Edition

Program and Date: May 27 - June 15, 2025

Academic Department: Natural Sciences

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Get to Know Your Professor

Hello! I'm Bob Shelton, and I have over 12 years of experience leading and teaching study abroad programs. My own journey began as a military brat moving from post to post, which ignited a lifelong passion for international travel, education, and experiential learning. With a background in STEM and business, I'm dedicated to helping students like you gain practical insights that extend beyond the classroom.

My approach to teaching is interactive and student-centered, and I'm committed to making this course a transformative experience. Outside of academia, I'm an avid traveler who believes that every journey is a chance to learn, grow, and connect. I'm thrilled to guide you through London and help you explore the rich connections between leadership, culture, and innovation. Let's make this an unforgettable experience!

Course Philosophy
This course is designed to immerse you in the vibrant cultural and business landscape of London while cultivating essential leadership skills. My teaching philosophy centers on experiential learning—believing that real growth occurs when you step outside your comfort zone and engage directly with the world around you. London, a global hub for innovation, history, and diversity, is the perfect setting to explore how leadership principles apply across industries and cultures.

We'll examine leadership concepts through site visits, discussions, and interactions with local leaders in fields ranging from technology to business to government. You'll not only gain insights into leadership theories but also observe their practical applications in a dynamic global city. My goal is for you to walk away with a broadened perspective, equipped with leadership tools that will serve you in any career path you choose.

Travel Philosophies I have picked up over time
With over a decade of study abroad experience as a student, instructor, and program director, I've come to believe that travel is one of the most powerful tools for personal growth and cultural understanding. Traveling isn't just about visiting new places; it's about seeing the world through a different lens and challenging your preconceived notions.

In London, we'll embody the philosophy of "Leave No Trace," respecting each place we visit by leaving it as we found it. I also encourage you to embrace the words of Mark Twain, who said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." Be open, be curious, and engage with the local culture as fully as possible. This experience is as much about learning from London as it is about learning about yourself as a leader.

Remember, flexibility and a positive attitude are your best tools on this journey. Whether we're exploring historic sites or navigating the Tube, every moment offers a lesson if you're willing to engage and reflect.

Course Description

Challenge your perspectives and amplify your leadership potential on an exploration of STEM and business leadership in the heart of London! This course introduces you to iconic locales like the tech-forward Silicon Roundabout and the bustling financial district, offering hands-on experiences with global business leaders. Visits to the historic British Museum and the innovative universities of Oxford and Cambridge will enhance your understanding of leadership across centuries and disciplines. Engage in cultural explorations of diverse neighborhoods, participate in interactive discussions, and gain real-world insights. Experience firsthand the dynamic environments that mold global leaders and prepare to be transformed by the innovative spirit of one of the world's most influential cities.

Course Level

Upper division

Prerequisite(s)

One semester of any STEM course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

- critically analyze historical, sociological, and philosophical perspectives on leadership within the contexts of STEM and business, demonstrating an understanding of how these disciplines intersect and influence one another.

- develop an awareness of diverse leadership styles and experiences within STEM and business fields, identifying key factors that contribute to effective leadership practices in global professional environments.

- demonstrate proficiency in applying ethical leadership principles and cultural competency strategies to real-world scenarios, recognizing the importance of ethical decision-making and inclusive leadership practices in fostering organizational success and innovation.

- enhance their ability to navigate diverse professional landscapes, establish meaningful connections, and leverage their authentic leadership styles to address contemporary challenges in STEM and business contexts.

- be empowered to contribute to a more inclusive and innovative future in STEM and beyond, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to lead with integrity, empathy, and resilience in today's rapidly evolving global society.

Required Readings and Materials

Required readings and materials for this course will be supplied by Dr. Shelton in ePDF format. This material will include a variety of curated resources designed to enhance your understanding of leadership in a global context. Expect insightful articles from leading business and STEM journals, case studies on influential leaders in technology and business, historical texts exploring the evolution of leadership concepts, and thought-provoking essays on cross-cultural communication. Additionally, you'll have access to multimedia resources, such as relevant TED Talks, reports on leadership trends, and practical tools for personal leadership development. All resources are chosen to enrich our in-class discussions and give you a comprehensive foundation for analyzing leadership within the unique setting of London.

Assignments and Grades

Pre-departure assignments: 10%
Participation in discussions and activities: 20%
Case studies: 20%
Reflective journals: 25%
Final project: 25%

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

The course will follow a traditional grading scale to assess your performance, using the familiar 90-80-70 range. This means that scores of 90% and above will earn an A, 80-89% will receive a B, and 70-79% will result in a C. This straightforward scale provides clear benchmarks for success and allows you to easily track your progress throughout the course.

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following site visits. This is a tentative list which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

Weekly: Experience Examples
- · Orientation and Introduction
- · Historical Leadership Tour
    - o Visits to significant historical sites like the Museum of London, Tower of London, and/or Churchill War Rooms
- · Modern Leadership in Business
    - o Visits to leading companies and startups
    - o On site guest lectures from business leaders
- · Cultural Leadership
    - o Exploration of cultural institutions such as the British Museum, the National Galleries, and/or Victoria & Albert Museum
- · Reflective Journaling and Group Discussions
    - o Guided journaling sessions and group discussions to reflect on Week 1 experiences
- · Case Studies and Role-Playing
    - o Analysis of leadership case studies and role-playing exercises
- · Leadership Workshops
    - o Workshops on communication, conflict resolution, and team building
- · Leadership in Various Sectors
    - o Visits to educational institutions, government buildings, and other relevant sites
- · Leadership Theories and Models
    - o Site visits, guest lectures, and group activities to apply leadership theories
- · Feedback and Iteration
    - o Presentation of projects, peer and instructor feedback, and project iteration
- · Final Reflection and Course Wrap-Up
    - o Reflective journaling, group discussions on key takeaways, and course evaluation

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Academic Integrity Policy

In this course, upholding academic integrity is essential. As a student in this course, you are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity in all your work, embodying the principles of responsibility and respect in every aspect of your studies, especially in an international setting.

Expectations: All assignments and projects should be completed with your original thoughts and efforts. Any use of external sources, including texts, websites, or AI tools, must be properly cited. Failing to attribute ideas, words, or content to their rightful sources is considered plagiarism.

Prohibited Conduct:

- **Cheating**: Using unauthorized resources, copying others' work, or sharing answers is strictly prohibited.
- **Plagiarism**: Copying from another source without proper citation is a serious offense. This includes directly copying text or ideas from books, articles, websites, or AI tools.
- **Unauthorized Collaboration**: Unless explicitly allowed, collaboration on assignments or assessments is not permitted.

Use of AI Tools:

- The use of AI tools like ChatGPT is restricted. You may only use these tools for brainstorming or to gain general ideas, but any content generated by AI that contributes to your final submission must be cited and limited to no more than 25% of the total work.
- Unauthorized use of AI for content creation without explicit permission will be considered academic dishonesty.

Consequences: Any violation of these standards may result in academic or disciplinary sanctions, including a grade penalty, failure of the assignment, or more severe consequences.

If you have any doubts or questions about what constitutes academic integrity in this course, please reach out to me for guidance. Maintaining these standards is not only a requirement but also a part of your growth as a responsible and ethical leader.

Physical Expectations

Program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags/belongings.

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.