

Hartford Seminary, Summer 2021

Religious Innovation Course Number: RS-603

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Course modality: **5-weeks, weekly 3.25-hour face-to-face seminars and online Canvas component – Tuesday June 1st to June 29th 6:30-9:45**

Class location: Zoom

Office hours: in person, via zoom or phone TBD (to schedule an appointment, email sthumma@hartsem.edu.)

Description

Who would have thought that all those stagnant congregations would have so quickly adapted to handle the realities of the Pandemic with such success? It is possible to learn from that traumatic situation and uncover the dynamics of innovative and creative ministry to effect change in any organizational context. This course will explore the dynamics of innovative and entrepreneurial leadership in businesses and then translate those learnings into insights for religious leadership. The final project for the course will be to create an actionable plan to continue the flexible adaptation evidenced throughout the past year in many communities of faith.

Texts*

Susan Beaumont, *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2019)

Mark Deymaz, *Disruption: Repurposing the Church to Redeem the Community* (Nashville: HarperCollins, 2017)

John P. Kotter, *Leading Change* (Boston: Harvard Business Review Press, 2012)

Scott Galloway, *Post Corona: From Crisis to Opportunity* (London: Transworld Publishers, 2020)

HBR's 10 Must Reads on Innovation (Boston: Harvard Business Review Press, 2013)

*Additional readings will be available in CANVAS.

Please email sthumma@hartsem.edu if you are having any difficulty accessing the texts.

Coursework and Assessment

- Class Participation: 20%
- Weekly Reflections posted in CANVAS: 25%
- One presentation: 15%
- Final paper or project: 40%

Learning Outcomes

- To demonstrate knowledge and the challenges of the larger social and cultural dynamics affecting religious life and organizations in the 21st century and their implications for religious leadership.
- To demonstrate knowledge related to the components of innovation and creativity in leadership.
- To demonstrate the capacity and willingness to think creatively about religious leadership.
- To develop the competence to produce original research and written work for the benefit of religious communities and religious leadership.

Plagiarism policy – plagiarism is not tolerated, see: <https://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/>

Schedule: TBD

Likely Topics:

For Such a Time as This.

Innovation in a Capitalist Context

The Steps to Religious Innovation

The Seriousness - interest/ambition, creativity, effort, and risk.

The Season – The right timing, the crisis real or manufactured, and the appropriate time for your region.

The Soil – Preparation, planning, prior cultivation – including the manure.

The Seeds – The right crops for your area, your space, your tastes/community.

The Sun/rain/pollination – God’s role, what’s that buzz, the unknowns.

The Structures – support, stakes, cages, weed block fabric.... Little successes.

The Sweat – prune, weed, remove pests, fertilize, give shade, etc.

The Store – harvest, marketing, in the bushel basket not under the bushel. Success breeds more success.

Your Plan for an Innovative Future