

FALL 2025 NOVAK LEADERSHIP COURSES

JOURN 4242 / 7242 W – Strategic Communication Leadership – Writing Intensive (3 credit)

In this course, students learn practical strategies for effectively leading self and others in the pursuit of big goals. Students discover how principles of strategic communication can translate into effective leadership and apply course concepts through hands-on projects, exercises, and discussions. Each student also participates in a leadership development team in which they share ideas, receive feedback, and work toward a personal Big Goal. For a final project, students research and present a TED-style talk on a leadership topic covered in the course. *Course satisfies curricular WI requirement.*

Instructors: Bryan Chester, Med; Justin Willett, M.H.A.

T/R, 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

3 credit hours. Class meets in-person. Multiple sections available.

Open to MU juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

JOURN 4244 / 7244 W – Organizational Culture & Leadership – Writing Intensive (3 credit)

In this course students study effective approaches for leading in organizations and teams and developing positive workplace culture. Through lectures, group discussions, case studies, and experiential learning activities, students gain a framework for assessing culture within organizations and examine the role leaders play in shaping culture. The course culminates in a hands-on ethnography research project involving observation and interviews inside the walls of a real-world local business or organization. *Course is writing intensive and satisfies curricular WI requirement.*

Instructor: Eleanor Farnen, M.A.

T/R, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

3 credit hours. Class meets in-person. **Open to MU juniors, seniors, and graduate students.**

JOURN 4268 – Sec 02 – Coaching Yourself (3 credit)

In this course, students learn strategies and practices for leading themselves to consistently perform at their best in work and life. This course shares proven principles used by the world's most successful leaders to achieve higher levels of professional and personal success. Students learn how to adopt a self-coaching mindset, develop an individual plan for growth, and take action to establish productive habits. Interactive weekly exercises help students build self-awareness, define personal values and vision, identify sources of motivation, develop self-confidence, network, and sustain higher levels of individual and group performance.

Instructor: Brandon Butcher, M.A.

M/W, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

3 credit hours. Class meets in-person. **Open to MU sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students.**