



## Course syllabus

School of Business and Economics

Department of Management

4FE532 Leadership in International Context, 15 högskolepoäng

Leadership in International Context, 15 credits

**Main field of study**

Business Administration

**Subject**

Business Administration

**Level**

Second cycle

**Progression**

A1N

**Date of Ratification**

Approved 2020-01-15.

Revised 2025-06-09. Literature revision.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2025.

**Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies, plus specific entry requirements:  
Bachelor Degree in Business Administration or in another social science main field of study

English 6, or the equivalent.

## Objectives

After completing this course the student should be able to:

- describe and explain different theoretical perspectives on leadership and leadership research

- describe and explain leadership as a joint construction of meaning between leaders and followers
- critically analyse how the concept and the practices of leadership are related to an increasingly complex international context
- debate the key issues of the course and make valuable and relevant contributions to the dialogue in class
- communicate orally and in written reports with confidence, insight and conviction the relevant issues covering the content of the course
- describe and analyse how this course is connected to the development of society at large
- describe and analyse the idea that leading others is an art that can be achieved through the art of leading oneself

## Content

The course contains:

- leadership and its alternatives
- followers and followership
- leadership as management of meaning
- leadership and gender
- leadership as drama and performance on the organizational stage
- leadership and contextual complexity related to international environments
- leadership as a social practice and personal challenge

## Type of Instruction

The course consists of several different forms of learning opportunities, including lectures, seminars, workshops, exercises, group assignments and presentations. The international composition of the learning environment is naturally used as an important asset in the discussion of the global and ever-present concept and practice of leadership.

## Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E or F.

The course is examined through written papers, group work, presentations and written take-home exams.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail. Grading criteria for the A–F scale are communicated in writing to the student by the start of the course at the latest, as well as how the weighting and weighting of grades on individual examining elements to the final course grade takes place. The basis for the student's

grade is determined by the student's fulfillment of the objectives.

Repeat examination is offered in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examination at the first and second-cycle level at Linnaeus University. An examiner can, in exceptional cases, decide that a student who is close to the level for a passing grade may carry out supplementary assignments in order to reach the passing grade.

If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special pedagogical support due to a disability, the examiner has the right to give a customised exam or to have the student conduct the exam in an alternative way.

## Course Evaluation

During the implementation of the course or in close conjunction with the course, a course evaluation is to be carried out. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are to be promptly presented as feedback to the students who have completed the course. Students who participate during the next course instance receive feedback at the start of the course. The course evaluation is to be carried out anonymously.

## Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 4FE530 and 4FE531 with 15 credits each.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

### Required reading

Alvesson, M., Blom, M. & Sveningsson, S. *Reflexive Leadership: Organising in an imperfect world*. London: SAGE Publications. Latest edition. About 220 pages.

Bennis, W. *On Becoming A Leader*. London: Arrow. Latest edition. About 300 pages.

Brown, B. *Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts*. Ebury Publishing. Latest edition. About 320 pages.

Gardner, H. *Leading Minds: An Anatomy of Leadership*. New York: Basic Books. Latest edition. About 250 pages.

Scientific articles. About 300 pages.

### Reference literature

Gurian, M. & Annis, B. *Leadership and the Sexes: Using Gender Science to Create Success in Business*. San Francisco: JosseyBass. Latest edition. About 230 pages.

Thomas, R.J. *Crucibles Of Leadership: How To Learn From Experience To Become A Great Leader*. Harvard Business School. Latest edition. About 290 pages.

Weick, K. E. *Sensemaking in Organizations*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications. Latest edition. About 220 pages.

Weick, K. E. *Making Sense of the Organization*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. Latest edition. About 240 pages.