

**UNIT CODE**

**EDLE 632**

**UNIT TITLE**

**LEADERSHIP SPIRITUALITY (REVISED UNIT)**

**CREDIT POINTS**

**10**

**DISCIPLINE CLUSTER AND WEIGHTING**

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER UNITS**

This is a specialisation unit in the Master of Educational Leadership and the Postgraduate Certificate in Educational Leadership.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Nil

**UNIT DESCRIPTION**

Spirituality is explored as a basic dimension of being human with emphasis on an informed understanding of Christian discipleship and the Jesus story. It investigates the relationship between spirituality and leadership within the faith-community of the school in the current cultural context and facilitates exploration of major challenges facing leaders in the contemporary Catholic and other faith-based schools.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this unit students will be expected to be able to:

1. Express the spiritual dimension as intrinsic to personal and community life (Graduate attributes V1, V3 and V4);
2. Connect the spiritual to Christian discipleship and the life and practice of their faith, with an appreciation of today's inter-faith context (Graduate attribute V1);
3. Explore the mission of Jesus in the contemporary Australian context (Graduate attribute I1);
4. Reflect critically, in this light, on ministerial leadership appropriate to Catholic and other faith-based schools (Graduate attributes I1, I3 and P2);
5. Show an awareness of the Australian cultural context as it affects both spirituality and leadership (Graduate attributes P1, V1, V2 and V4); and
6. Explore major challenges facing leaders in Catholic and other faith-based schools (Graduate attribute 13).

On successful completion of this unit, students will have progressed in the development of the following ACU graduate attributes:

**Intellectual**

- I1. critical and analytical abilities
- I3 open-mindedness and receptiveness to new ideas

**Professional**

- P1 knowledge and skills to meet relevant professional requirements
- P2 understanding of and commitment to professional ethical standards

**Values**

- V1 commitment to values consistent with the University's Mission
- V2 a spirit of service to the community
- V3 commitment to good citizenship, including respect for individuals, empathy with persons of differing cultural and religious backgrounds, community responsibility and concern for the environment

V4 a high regard for equity and human rights in the context of a broad understanding of globalization.

## CONTENT

Topics will include:

- Perspectives of contemporary spirituality
- Perspectives in the history of Christian spirituality
- Jesus of history and the Christ of faith
- Leadership and Christian discipleship
- Spirituality and ecclesial belonging
- Australian culture and spirituality
- The “culture” of Australian Catholic education
- The nexus between leadership and spirituality
- Ministerial leadership in the Catholic or other faith-based school.

## TEACHING ORGANISATION

In addition to lectures on the key concepts found in the literature, there will be opportunities for group discussion, private reflection and practical activities. Face-to-face teaching, conventional distance education materials and electronic modes of delivery may also be used. These methods will allow students to participate in an intense dialogue, using a variety of investigative methodologies, sorting through various sources and types of evidence to identify underlying patterns, structure or significance. These methods are also intended to engage students as active participants in the learning process and encourage them to become independent learners. There will be respect for students’ views and responses, an understanding of an individual’s knowledge, capabilities and backgrounds and a concern for the welfare and progress of individual students.

## ASSESSMENT

There will be two or three assignments totalling 5,500 words. Length would depend on weighting. At least one would require a focus on real-life situations. Sample assignment topics could be:

Assessment	Learning Outcomes	Graduate Attributes
<b>Assignment 1</b> A scholarly and personal reflection on one approach to spirituality as expressed in leadership.	1, 2, 3, 4	I1, I3, P1, P2, V 2, V3
<b>Assignment 2</b> Analysis and critique of an organisational setting and how spirituality is expressed therein with particular focus on the role of the teacher.	1, 4, 5, 6	I1, I4, P1, P2, V1, V2, V4
<b>Assignment 3</b> Alternative to one of the above. A negotiated task related to unit objectives.	1, 4, 5, 6	I1, I4, P1, P2, V1, V2, V4

In order to satisfy requirements for this unit, students are expected to submit all assessment tasks and to participate in classes and/or prescribed online activities.

## REPRESENTATIVE READINGS

- Benjamin, A., & Riley, D. (Eds.). (2008). *Catholic schools: Hope in uncertain times*. Melbourne: John Garratt.
- Borg, M. (2005). *The heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a life of faith*. San Francisco: Harper.
- Bouma, G. (2006). *Australian soul: religion and spirituality in the twenty-first century*. Melbourne: Cambridge University Press.
- Carrette, J., & King, R. (2005). *Selling spirituality: The silent takeover of religion*. London: Routledge.
- Crosby, M. (2008). *The Paradox of power: From control to compassion*. New York: Crossroad.
- Dorr, D. (2007). *Faith at work: A spirituality of leadership*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press.
- Fry, L. (2003). Towards a theory of spiritual leadership. *The Leadership Quarterly*, 14, pp. 693-727.
- Gittins, A. (2002). *A presence that disturbs: A call to radical discipleship*. Strathfield, NSW: St. Pauls.
- Houston, P., Blankstein, A., & Cole, R. (2008). *Spirituality in educational leadership*, Thousand Oakes, CA: Sage.
- Lakeland, P. (2007). *Catholicism at the crossroads: How the laity can save the church*. New York: Continuum.
- McGillion, C. (Ed.). (2003). *A long way from Rome: Why the Australian Catholic Church is in crisis*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin.
- Noddings, N. (2006). Educational leaders as caring teachers. *Leadership and Management*, 26(4), pp. 339-45.
- O'Murchu, D. (2008). *Ancestral grace: Meeting God in our human story*. New York: Orbis.
- Osbourne, K. (2006). *Orders and ministry: Leadership in the world church*. New York: Orbis.
- Robinson, G. (2007). *Confronting power and sex in the Catholic church: Reclaiming the spirit of Jesus*. Melbourne: John Garratt.
- Rolheiser, R. (1999). *The holy longing: The search for a Christian spirituality*. New York: Doubleday.
- Spong, J. (2005). *A new Christianity for a new world*. San Francisco: Harper.
- Wessels, C. (2003). *Jesus in the new universe story*. New York: Orbis.