



Pre-College Course Innovation with Summer Term

For Summer 2027 and beyond, Summer Term Pre-College would like to expand and refresh its course offerings on a regular basis, to ensure that we are meeting the needs and interests of intellectually curious high school students who want to learn more about current and emerging fields of study. For 2027, we seek to develop new offerings for our [Academic Immersion \(AIM\)](#) and [Summer Challenge](#) programs.

Course Area of Interest: Leadership

Here is a sample outline for the Leadership course that we are interested in for 2027:

Leadership in a Changing World – Sample Syllabus

This course is modelled on the [Precollege Leadership Institute at Dartmouth](#), which the Director of Pre-College at BU Summer Term designed and built for that institution. While that curriculum is very unique (includes an outdoor leadership experience with Outward Bound), the theoretical core – that effective leadership is contextual and requires adaptation to the needs of those served – is the same, allowing us to draw on examples from across disciplines and industries and leverage the broad network of experience at BU. Each iteration of the course could be different, as representatives from politics, government, business, health care, social organizations, etc. all bring something different to the mix.

*This concept would work very well for the AIM program and multiple contributors, but could also work for our [Summer Challenge](#) program, which is two weeks rather than three and has about 18 instructional hours (2 hours per day for 9 days). Summer Challenge might be a good option for those with more limited availability in 2027. **Candidates interested in this idea should develop their own course idea within one or more specific academic disciplines.***

Course Description

This course engages participants in considering the real-world dilemmas of leaders working in a wide range of industries and disciplines. The course analyzes different theories about what makes a good leader and how identity and institutions shape the options available to them. Case studies are used to examine the impact leaders have on policymaking (public, social, scientific, educational), social movements, and government, from local communities to a global world. Through this course, participants will enhance their critical understanding of the dilemmas that are encountered by leaders, their ability to evaluate case studies as learning

tools, and their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Participants are asked to wrestle with the problem as if it were their own and bring their experience and classroom learning and elsewhere to bear on the questions.

Learning Outcomes

Participants who complete this course will:

- Have an enhanced appreciation of the dilemmas leaders of change encounter and the lessons they have learned from their experiences.
- Be able to analyze cases about leadership.
- Be able to think critically about problems real leaders face in different contexts.
- Have a better understanding of their own beliefs about leadership and their own leadership style.

Example Reading Sources

Northouse – [*Leadership: Theory and Practice*](#)

Chandler & Kirsch – [*Critical Leadership Theory*](#)

Antonakis & Day – [*The Nature of Leadership*](#)

Kellerman – [*Leadership from Bad to Worse*](#)