COURSE SYLLABUS

Leadership Rooted in American Principles: Serving with Purpose Course (Self-Paced)

Apply American founding principles, rule-of-law commitments, and civic-minded leadership to ethical decision-making and principled public service in the federal workplace.

Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/leadership-rooted-in-american-principles-serving-with-purpose-course-self-paced

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Course Outline

Module 1: Welcome, Framing, and Leadership Context

- Course alignment to ECQ 1: Commitment to the Rule of Law and the Principles of the American Founding.
- ECQ 1 subcompetencies and what reviewers assess in leadership scenarios.
- Reflection on personal leadership identity and what public service means to you as a federal leader.

Module 2: Knowledge of the American System of Government

- Founding principles and Constitutional design: separation of powers, checks and balances, and protection of individual rights.
- How each branch of government checks the others, and how federal employees operate across all three branches.
- Federalism and intergovernmental relationships: federal and state roles in program delivery and shared governance.

Module 3: Commitment to the Rule of Law

- Foundations of the rule of law: equal application of law, limited government authority, and independent enforcement.
- Fair and consistent application of law: uniform rule application, decision documentation, and avoiding selective enforcement.
- Transparency, accountability, and public trust: open government obligations, oversight responsibilities, and accountability standards.
- Ethical leadership in federal service: conflicts of interest, the public-scrutiny test, and maintaining visible daily integrity.

Module 4: Civic-Mindedness and Public Service

- Civic awareness: monitoring legislative and executive developments that affect your agency's mission and mandates.
- Translating national priorities into agency action: aligning team goals to presidential priorities and the agency strategic plan.
- The service ethic and public trust: connecting your team's work to public benefit and democratic governance.
- Mission Alignment Mapping activity: tracing team activities to agency priorities, national priorities, and public benefit.

Module 5: Principles in Leadership Practice

- Principled decision-making framework: applying legal, fairness, transparency, and public-service tests before major decisions.
- Integrity in action: consistent rule-following, honest acknowledgment of mistakes, and protecting dissenting voices.

- Organizational stewardship: protecting institutional mission and capacity beyond your own tenure as a federal leader.

Module 6: Capstone – Leading with American Principles

- Integration of course themes: American system knowledge, rule-of-law commitments, civic-mindedness, and principled decision-making.
- Capstone activity: build a personal Leadership Action Plan applying ECQ 1 principles to your daily leadership responsibilities.