



Seminar Offerings

CORE OFFERINGS

The Aspen Executive Seminar

The signature Institute offering on leadership, values and the good society. What is the good society? How does it come to be? What is my role in making it happen? This seminar surveys the competing, sometimes contradictory values of liberty, equality, community and wealth creation. How we lead—in business or any other field—requires a clear sense of the core values which shape the directions in which we lead.

The Challenge of Leadership

An introduction to transformational leadership. What is leadership? What are the characteristics of good leaders? How do we think about the values underlying leadership? This seminar is designed to help participants explore the leadership qualities—positive and otherwise—of such figures as Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Lee Kuan Yew, and prominent figures in American business. The seminar also encourages reflection on the individual habits and interior resources upon which successful leaders draw.

Leadership in an Age of Globalization

The opportunities and costs of globalization. How do we lead in ways conducive to responsible, humane economic development in a global environment? This seminar looks at the economic, social, cultural, and historical context of our global leadership challenges.

The Promise of Leadership

The next level of leadership. What are my responsibilities? How do I think about my legacy? This seminar helps leaders reflect on the challenges of leadership that remain ahead, including life and family, transitions and strategies for moving “from success to significance”.

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

Values and Leadership

Leadership and Character

What is character? How is it developed? This seminar takes up where the Aspen Executive Seminar leaves off, exploring such topics as moral courage, friendship, loyalty, ego control, conscience, and vision.

Technology and Society: The Experience of Life

What are the values tensions underlying the rapid advances in bio-technology, digital technology, artificial intelligence, and the automation of labor? How do we balance what is possible with emerging technologies with a vision of a life well lived? How do we ensure that advances in technology support rather than diminish the possibilities of living justly in a good society?

Pursuing the Good Life

This seminar is designed for leaders at personal and career inflection points. What is the good life? What does it look like for me? How do I align my priorities so that I can live well? Sessions explore the various stages in a journey of leadership with particular attention to questions of individual happiness, family and friends, community, leisure and legacy.

Nature, Society and Sustainability

The seminar probes issues of sustainability, environmental philosophy and ethics, and also addresses contemporary policy issues including conservation, extinction, sustainable development, and conflicts between developing and developed countries relating to the environment. Participants also discuss art and poetry that take inspiration from nature.

Organizational Challenges

Creativity, Innovation, and the Demands of 21st Century Leadership

This seminar is highly-interactive exploration of the challenges to leadership in a world where creativity and innovation require keen powers of analysis and imagination as well as a strong sense of organizational purpose and personal values. Through readings, visual art, and music participants engage such questions as: What is creativity? What are the characteristics of creative and innovative organizations? What are the contours of 21st century business—particularly in its global context—that provide openings for innovation?

Leading Change

Personal and organizational management is the focus of this seminar, which draws upon a number of classic ethical texts and contemporary case studies concerning leadership, crisis management, and sustaining institutional change.

Transformational Leadership

This seminar looks at the challenges when leaders are striving to transform the organizations of which they are a part. Topics include corporate cultural, social and human capital, and institutional integrity. Ample time is devoted to developing personal and organizational action plans.

Shaping the 21st Corporation: Corporation As a Community, Corporation In the Community

This seminar looks at the fundamental questions concerning capitalism, the corporation, community, the changing nature of work, and globalization. Participants are challenged to think afresh about the relationships between corporate mission, communities, and stakeholders.

The Corporation in Crisis: Restoring Integrity, Accountability, and Public Trust

All corporations, not just those implicated in scandal, face the challenge of maintaining institutional integrity and public trust. This seminar looks at the ethical foundations of capitalism, the crisis in corporate governance, ethical management, the responsibilities of business leadership, the purpose of the corporation, and the ideal corporation.

The Corporate Conscience: Ethics for Leaders

This seminar explores the links between leadership, ethics, and corporate culture. Focusing on ethical reasoning and contemporary case studies, participants consider how to build ethical corporate cultures, transform bad organizational habits into good ones, and develop the internal compass to lead ethically in an age of uncertainty.

Leadership, Values, and Corporate Strategy

This seminar weaves a discussion of values-based leadership into a corporation-specific management strategy retreat designed to meet the articulated current needs of the contracting corporation. (Past clients include FedEx, Visa, et al.)

Capitalism and Global Culture

The Challenges of Global Capitalism

This seminar looks at a number of crucial challenges facing global capitalism, including development, differences of culture, technology, the common good, population, democracy, commercialization, and the nature of work. Texts are drawn from contemporary sources which help leaders think creatively about the challenges we face.

Interpreting Global Values: Leadership and Global Values in the 21st century

This program places the challenges of leadership in the 21st century in the context of the great conversation of human civilization. What are the values I live by? Where do they come from? How far are they consistent with those of my neighbor? Are they adequate to the local and global challenges of the 21st century? How will I navigate the tensions among these values within myself and in a global environment?

Globalization and Asian Values

This seminar helps leaders reconceptualize the role of the corporation in the post-9/11 world. What is the role of American business in the context of emerging global values, particularly Asian values (China and India) and the values of Islam? Are we witnessing the emergence of a global culture? If so, is this something to celebrate or regret? Is the globalization of culture likely to improve human understanding or threaten cultural diversity?

Global Values and Leadership: China and India

This seminar puts original texts exemplifying western and eastern ethical reasoning in conversation with each other, with a focus on such topics as harmony and responsibility, compassion and community, and different conceptions of

democracy. Participants emerge with a more nuanced understanding of western and eastern ways of thinking, and the implications of those ways of thinking for doing business in the 21st century.

Cities, Roots, and Cross-Border Leadership

This seminar aims to help participants consider the increasingly rapid mix of populations in the global society, and its implications for them as leaders. Emigration/immigration feeds into policy debates about the changing face of the globe: we witness vast migrations of people by legal and illegal means, an ever more mobile leisure class, and most recently, increasing relocation due to climate change. Our notions of community, origins, and self merge and re-emerge under the pressure of daily survival in these circumstances.