

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Course Syllabus

Course Information

PHIL 2331: Foundations of Leadership
Instructor: Gregory L. Bock, Ph.D.
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Catalog Description

A survey of approaches to leadership in both Western and Eastern philosophy including but not limited to the ideas of Lao Tzu, Plato, and Locke.

Required Textbooks

Reading materials are provided for free (OER) in Canvas.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to...

1. demonstrate critical thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information in a written essay about the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to leadership.
2. demonstrate effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication in a research project on a topic of leadership ethics presented to the class.
3. demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities by analyzing and evaluating a theory of leadership in a written essay.
4. demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences, to ethical decision-making by communicating their core values to others in a group.
5. list the character traits of a good leader.
6. explain the leadership theories of several Western philosophers
7. explain the leadership theories of several Eastern philosophers

- compare and contrast Eastern and Western approaches to leadership

Grading

Major Assignments (5 @ 100 pts each):	400 points (lowest dropped)
Group Presentations	
Exams	
Essay	
Reading Quizzes (10 @ 10 pts each):	80 points (lowest 2 dropped)
Attendance:	50 points
TOTAL:	530 points

Grading Scale Percentages

A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=less than 60%

Assessment

Group Case Presentations: Students will work in small groups to present content and a case from the Ethics Unwrapped website. Preparation will involve researching the related ethical and leadership concepts and the background of the case. On the day of the presentation, the group will produce a one-sided, double-spaced, single-page document that summarizes the presentation. The document will be uploaded to the Water Cooler in Canvas and displayed on the screen during the presentation. Speaking notes will not be allowed.

Grading rubric:

- Did the presentation clearly and systematically present the related ethical and leadership concepts from the website? (25 points)
- Did the presentation demonstrate a deep understanding of the case, including background information and extraneous details not included in the website summary of the case? (25 points)
- Did the presenters speak clearly and professionally and use their time well? (25 points)
- Did the presenters handle questions from the audience well? This may include questions from the instructor. (25 points)

Exams: The two exams will be taken in class and be closed-book and based on material from the readings and the group presentations. A study guide will come out roughly a week before the exam and include some of the possible questions on the exam.

Essay

This paper is a compare and contrast essay. You'll compare the leadership ideas of two authors from the class readings. You'll identify one or two key ideas from each author and explain the differences and similarities. Don't just describe each author's ideas separately and leave the reader in the lurch; you must directly compare the two authors. See required outline in the box below.

General Requirements

- 1500 words (+ or - 100)
- Five-paragraph essay
- Double-spaced
- No cover page
- Name and title at the top center of first page
- Page numbers on the bottom right of each page
- Standard twelve-point font (e.g. Times New Roman)
- One-inch margins
- .docx, rtf, or pdf file formats only
- The introduction should be no more than half a page.
- The conclusion should be no more than half a page and only review the main points.
- No inflammatory or disrespectful language

The paper should be a standard five paragraph essay (no more and no less than five paragraphs), which means an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The thesis statement requirement: *the last sentence* of the introduction should be the *complete thesis statement* that clearly states your point of view or the controlling idea of the essay. The topic sentence requirement: the first sentence of each body paragraph should act as a topic sentence and support the thesis statement. The paper should be organized in the following way:

First paragraph: This paragraph includes background info about the two authors and any terms that need to be defined. The thesis statement should be clearly stated in the last sentence.

Second paragraph: first author's idea(s).

Third paragraph: second author's idea(s).

Fourth paragraph: directly discuss the differences and similarities of the ideas mentioned in the second and third paragraphs.

Fifth paragraph: conclusion and review of main points

ESSAY RUBRIC (100 POINTS)

0-35 points

Are the ideas in the paper well-supported or well-argued? The essay makes its case, is well-organized, and contains clear reasoning or evidence.

0-35 points	Are connections made with readings in the course? Student makes multiple, relevant connections (with citations) to course material. Aim for at least two citations per paragraph. A citation can simply be a parenthetical citation with author name and location, e.g. (Plato, online). If outside sources are used, they must appear as parenthetical citations in the essay and at the end in a works cited page.
0-15 points	Does the paper demonstrate clear and deep understanding of philosophy? Careful philosophical thinking is demonstrated throughout the essay, showing that the student comprehends the readings.
0-15 points	Is the paper well-written? Grammar is polished, and citation style conforms to Chicago Manual of Style . Also, the paper meets the thesis statement and topic sentence requirements in the instructions and is a five-paragraph essay organized in the way described above.

Additional points will be deducted for late papers and papers that don't satisfy the "basic requirements" above. Cases of plagiarism earn an automatic zero and a possible F in the course. Plagiarized papers may be sent to UT Tyler Judicial Affairs to receive additional consequences.

If you receive help from the Writing Center on an early draft and use the information to revise your paper, I will award you five extra credit points in the extra credit column, which amounts to half a letter grade on the paper. In order to receive extra credit, you must opt in to "email instructor" when you visit the Center. If I don't receive an e-mail from the Writing Center, you will not receive credit. The Writing Center is often busy, so you must plan ahead and make an appointment. No exceptions will be made if you are too late in making your appointment.

Reading Quizzes: There are fifteen quizzes in Canvas. They can be found under the Quizzes tab or in Modules. The quizzes are open book but timed. You must work alone and not receive help from the Internet or other source. You can only use class readings. Make-ups are allowed with valid excuse, such as a doctor's note, but for other cases, such as Internet connectivity issues not caused by the university, make-ups are not allowed. I have configured Canvas to drop the lowest two quizzes to allow for life's unexpected events. By the way, do not wait until the last minute to take a quiz.

Attendance: At the start of the semester, each student has fifty points for attendance and one free unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence after the first is penalized five points per day against the attendance grade up to fifty points. Excused absences will not count against the fifty points but need to be accompanied with documentation (e.g. a doctor's note). This documentation must be submitted when the student returns to class and no later. After losing fifty points, no further points will be deducted even if there are more absences. Students may not see points deducted in the grade book immediately or even until the end of the semester, so it is the student's responsibility to be aware of the number of attendance points remaining and make sure that the attendance sheet is accurate on a weekly basis.

Course Policies:

Late work policy: Assignments must be submitted by the deadline. Make-ups will be allowed with a valid excuse, e.g. a doctor's note. For the essay, a penalty of half a letter grade per day up to two letter grades will be assessed for late submissions.

Communication policy: The best way to communicate with the instructor is through UT Tyler e-mail (gbock@uttyler.edu) or in Canvas. Students can expect replies within 48 hours excluding weekends and holidays. Students who do not receive a reply within this timeframe should attempt to contact the instructor again. The instructor communicates with the class via Canvas emails and announcements. It is important that students check their email and allow push notifications for class announcements.

Class conduct policy: The subject matter of this class can make some people hot under the collar. This said, all comments and behavior must be classroom appropriate. What does "classroom appropriate" mean? It does *not* mean that students cannot express unpopular opinions. It means practicing reasoning and logical argumentation. It means being civil and listening with respect. Insults, snide comments, name-calling, cutting someone off, derogatory tones, sarcasm, ridicule, cussing, vulgarity, personal attacks, racial slurs, misogynistic remarks, etc. will not be allowed. If you are unsure about what counts as disrespectful, consult the instructor or the Golden Rule. The instructor will act as the final word on what is or is not classroom appropriate. Violators may be ejected from the class.

Cell phone policy (face-to-face sections): Mobile devices can be used in the classroom if it is related to what is going on in class. They are permissible as long as they don't distract you or your classmates from the lesson.

Arriving late or leaving early policy (face-to-face sections): Arriving on time can sometimes be challenging, especially at 8:00 a.m., but it is better to be late than never. However, late arrivals and early departures can be disruptive. If becomes a regular issue, points will be deducted from the attendance grade.

Extra credit policy: Extra credit is available in the class but only occasionally and not on request.

"It is what it is" final grade policy: Grades are final once the final grade percentage has been calculated in Canvas at the end of the semester. No changes will be made unless the instructor has made a mistake. Grades are not bumped up unless the student is within .5% of the next letter grade. For example, an 89.5% is an A. An 89.4% is a B. No extra credit opportunities will be given during the last week of class. The conditions for an "incomplete" are stated in the university handbook: "(a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due." The terms and deadline for satisfying an "incomplete" will be set by the instructor.

Plagiarism policy: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is taking credit for material that is not your own whether it is copied from a classmate, textbook, or online source (such as ChatGPT).

Plagiarism is cheating, and cheating is the way of the Dark Side. If that isn't enough of a deterrent in itself, plagiarizing will result in an F on the assignment and a possible F in the course. It could also mean suspension from the school. So, students should be sure to use proper citations and do their own work. If students are not sure whether something constitutes plagiarism, they should contact the instructor to ask about it before submitting the assignment. The penalty will apply whether the act of plagiarism is intentional or not.

Cheaters aren't leaders!

[UT TYLER HONOR CODE](#)

I embrace honor and integrity.
Therefore, I choose not to lie, cheat or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.