

# 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
8. compare and contrast Eastern and Western approaches to leadership

## Grading

|                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Exams (3 @ 100 pts each):           | 200 points (lowest dropped)  |
| Reading Quizzes (10 @ 10 pts each): | 80 points (lowest 2 dropped) |
| Group Reports (4@25 pts each):      | 100 points                   |
| Attendance:                         | 50 points                    |
| TOTAL:                              | 430 points                   |

## Grading Scale Percentages

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

## Assessment

**Group Reports:** Students will work in small groups to study and present content from the Ethics Unwrapped website. Work will be conducted during class time.

Grading rubric:

1. Did the report demonstrate a deep understanding of the case, including background information and extraneous details not included in the website summary of the case? (25 points)
2. Did the report identify the relevant ethical and leadership concepts (25 points)
3. Was the report presented clearly? (25 points)
4. Did the presenters handle questions from the audience well? This may include questions from the instructor. (25 points)

**Exams:** The three exams are short essay exams and will be taken in class and be closed book and based on material from the readings and class discussions. Exam 1 will be an analysis of a chapter from the *Tao Te Ching*. Exam 2 will be an explanation of a quote from Plato's *Republic*. Exam 3 will be an explanation of a quote from one of the readings in the last module. Answers will be graded on their correctness and completeness.

**Reading Quizzes:** There are ten 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:** Make-ups will be allowed with a valid excuse, e.g. a doctor's note.

**Communication policy:** The best way to communicate with the instructor is through UT Tyler e-mail ([gbock@uttyler.edu](mailto: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, 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 may be available at various times during the semester, but it is only made available at the discretion of the instructor and never upon 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.

**A.I. policy:** AI is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, and appropriate acknowledgment is required. For the readings, you may use AI to better understand what the authors say and what the philosophical ideas mean. For the group reports, you may use AI to research a topic and brainstorm your group's ideas, but you may not use it to write your group presentation or report for you. Everything you write in class must be in your own words. You may use AI to study for the exams too, but you may not use AI during the test or quizzes, and your essay must be in your own words and express your own opinion.

**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.

#### 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.