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Course: Phil 3070
Location: The Internet

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UNO Philosophy
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Leadership Ethics

> "Wise leaders generally have wise counselors because it takes a wise person themselves to distinguish them."
>
> Diogenes of Sinope

Course Overview

In today's complex and interconnected world, ethical leadership is a necessity. Ethical leaders inspire trust, foster a positive organizational culture, and drive sustainable success. This course aims to equip future leaders with the essential moral knowledge and reasoning skills required to navigate the broad and difficult challenges they will confront. In particular, students will study the philosophical foundations of ethical leadership, examine how these illuminate historical and contemporary cases of leadership success and failure, and apply the lessons to their own experience. In short, this course aims to cultivate the ethical leadership skills that will not only propel careers but will help students meaningfully contribute to a better, more responsible world.

Required Materials

Pendleton, D. and Furnham, A.F., 2016. *Leadership: All You Need To Know* 2nd Edition. Springer. (Abbreviated as **LANK** under Course Outline)

Price, T. L. (2008). *Leadership Ethics: An Introduction*. United States: Cambridge University Press.

All other material will be posted on Canvas (and there will be many links and downloads to access for this class. If you are having trouble navigating Canvas, please reach out to me ASAP)

Course Information

Preparation: Engaging in philosophical work in ethics often demands a level of detailed, rigorous reasoning that may be unfamiliar to many. However, this course presents a wonderful opportunity for growth in this regard. Also, the only dumb questions are the ones you don't ask. If you are confused about something, then there is a high likelihood that someone else is too!

Evaluation

Grading Scale

A+	96.7 - 100%		C+	76.7 - 79.9%
A	93.3 - 96.6%		C	73.3 - 76.6%
A-	90 - 93.2%		C-	70 - 73.2%
B+	86.7 - 89.9		D+	66.7 - 69.9
B	83.3 - 86.6%		D	63.3 - 66.6%
B-	80 - 83.2%		D-	60 - 63.2%

F
Below 60%

Final Grade Composition:
Podcasts: 30%
Podcast Responses: 10%
Leadership Labs: 50%
Code of Leadership Ethics: 10%

Podcasts: A total of 10 podcasts must be submitted over the course of the class with no more than 2 coming from any given week's topic. The podcasts will be a video recording of the student (or something equivalent if voice recording is not possible) and will be posted in the Canvas discussion board for our class. The goal is for the student to apply the lessons of that week's reading to one of the Response Material available for analysis (see **Course Outline** below for the list). Each podcast submission will be posted in the discussion board section of Canvas. Podcasts should be no shorter than 5 minutes and no longer than 10.

Podcast responses: Students will be required to respond in the discussion board to student submitted podcasts with typed / recorded responses of their own. Our goal is to foster respectful and open discussions, avoiding antagonism, offense, or rudeness. Disagreements will naturally arise, which is a valuable aspect of our learning process. Embracing these differences of opinion often leads to the most significant growth and understanding. Please prioritize being both respectful and honest in your interactions. A total of 10 podcast responses must be submitted over the course of our six week class. Again, this will all be done in Canvas, via the discussion board. Responses should be around 500 words.

Leadership Labs: Each week in this class has a theme. Three of these themes have an associated leadership lab. These labs will be submitted as **typed** responses to a set of prompts. These prompts will be provided on Canvas. The prompts will allow the student to draw on both the class material *and* their own experience in order to explain how best to handle a set of case studies. It will be imperative that the student display competence with the course material relevant to that lab. These will be submitted on Canvas to me and will not be seen by other students.

Leadership Code of Ethics: In this final assignment, you will have the opportunity to synthesize your understanding of leadership ethics and construct a guiding document that will serve as your compass in future leadership roles. This assignment encourages students to not only understand the theoretical underpinnings of ethical leadership but also to apply these concepts to their personal values and future leadership aspirations. It emphasizes self-reflection and self-awareness, which are critical components of effective ethical leadership.

Policies

• **Academic Integrity**: The penalty for academic dishonesty (e.g., collaborating on problem sets, cheating on exams) will be failure of the course and the case's being forwarded to Student Judicial Affairs for possible disciplinary action. Make yourself familiar with UNO's Student Code of Conduct, available [online](). **In this course, the normal penalty for any violation of the code is an "F" for the semester.** Violations may have additional consequences including expulsion from the university. Don't plagiarize – it just isn't worth it.

• **University Policies**: I respect and uphold university policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired students; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students are advised to become familiar with the respective university regulations and are encouraged to bring any questions or concerns to the attention of the instructor.

• **ADA**: In compliance with University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students requiring accessibility accommodations. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Further Resources

• Jargon: It's important to be on top of the technical terms used by philosophers. Please ask for clarification of terms in class. You can also consult Jim Pryor's online "[Philosophical Terms and Methods]()." This is less important in this class than in more 'normal' philosophy classes, but it may help.
• Reference: The [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy]() is an excellent online resource, though entries can be lengthy. The [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy]() has shorter entries, but it is not as scholarly.
• I may post some additional readings on my website if the assigned reading does not explain something with sufficient clarity.

Course Outline

Topic 1 **Leadership and truth**	**Exiting the Cave** Reading: Plato's allegory of the cave LANK Ch3 **Response Material:** Podcast 1: Simon Blackburn on Plato's cave Video 1: Dr. Daniel Bonevac (Uni of Texas) Video 2: Plato's Three Parts of the Soul	
Topic 2 **Bad Leadership**	**What a leader isn't** Reading: LANK Ch9 **Response Material:** Podcast 1: Elizabeth Holmes and Theranos Video 1: Yahoo! Finance Docu on Theranos	**Leadership Lab 1: Bad Leadership** Access the Leadership Lab Worksheet 1 and submit your replies to the case study.
Topic 3 **Virtuous Leadership**	**Developing the virtues** Reading: *Modern Virtue Theory* (Canvas reading list) Leadership Ethics Ch4 **Response Material:** Podcast 1: NPR Wisdom from the Top Video 1: Financial Times Docu on SBF	**Leadership Lab 2: Virtuous Leadership** Access the Leadership Lab Worksheet 2 and submit your replies to the case study.
Topic 4 **Intelligent Leadership**	**Leading with smarts** Reading: LANK Ch7 **Response Material:** Podcast 1: Freakonomics on Incompetent Bosses Video 1: Dunning on Dunning-Kruger	
Topic 5 **Failures in Leadership**	**Dealing with failure** Reading: *Explaining Ethical Failures of Leadership* by Price (Canvas reading list) **Response Material:** Podcast 1: Sam Bankman-Fried Video 1: Shaun Nichols on Moral Responsibility Video 2: Moral Psychology and Army Ethics	**Leadership Lab 3: Failures in Leadership** Access the Leadership Lab Worksheet 3 and submit your replies to the case study.
Topic 6 **Following a Leader**	**Following the leader** Reading: LANK CH5 **Response Material:** Podcast 1: NPR Wisdom from the Top Video 1: Followership	**Leadership Code of Ethics: Submit on Canvas**

Suggested Schedule for Completing Assignments

In an effort to help everyone not fall behind, I offer the following suggested work schedule for this class.

Monday	Do half of the reading for that topic.
Tuesday	Finish the reading for that topic.
Wednesday	View the video for that topic or listen to the podcast.
Thursday	View the video for that topic or listen to the podcast.
Friday	Record your podcast response and upload it to the Discussion Board.
Saturday	Respond to two of your fellow student's podcasts.
Sunday	Rest!

For topics with an associated Leadership Lab assignment, I would suggest typing up a rough draft of it on Saturday. Then you can revise it and submit it on Sunday. Of course, this is an asynchronous class, and you needn't follow my recommendations. The important thing is to find a schedule that works for you and lets you get all of your work done.

Welcome to the class! 🎉