

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

Initiator Posts (5 @ 100 points each):	400 points (lowest dropped)
Response Post Assignments (5 @ 10 pts each):	40 points (lowest dropped)
Term Paper:	100 points
Participation:	100 points
TOTAL:	640 points

Grading Scale Percentages

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

Assessment

Discussion Board Assignment: You'll make a minimum of six contributions to each discussion board: 1 initiator post + 5 response posts = 6 total posts (minimum). These posts will be spread out over three days, for example 1 initiator post on Friday night, 2 response posts on Saturday, and 3 response posts on Sunday. In other words, I want to see you active on the board at least three different days.

INITIATOR POSTS: You'll write one initiator post for each of the six modules. An initiator post is one that starts a thread based on the discussion prompt on the discussion board. A good post will offer a clear point of view and support it with material from the book, which should be cited at least three times, not only for direct quotes.

If you only use course material to quote from, quotation marks and parenthetical citations are enough, for example: "yada, yada" (Plato, online). If students use even one outside source – like the excellent [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) – a reference list for *all* sources must be included at the end of the post and must follow Chicago Manual of Style (CMS). See [here](#) for CMS examples, and see how proper citations affect the grade in the rubric below. I expect multiple references in your post to course readings.

The post must be at least 300 words. There's no maximum word count, but keep in mind that grades are not based on quantity of words but on demonstrated comprehension and critical thinking. The grading rubric below shows exactly what is expected.

The due dates for initiator posts can be found on the discussion boards.

You must post first in order to view other posts. The edit function will be disabled. If you want to edit after posting, you may reply in the thread with corrections or request that I delete the post. There must be a very good reason for deletion. For grading purposes, I consider your first post to be the initiator post even if it is blank or incomplete.

Late initiator posts can be turned in for a lower grade before the board officially closes. A late penalty of half a letter grade per day applies in each case unless accompanied by a valid excuse (e.g. a doctor's note that indicates a serious illness). *Connectivity issues are not valid excuses for late work unless they are the university's fault.*

DISCUSSION BOARD RUBRIC (INITIATOR POSTS)	
0-35 points	Point of view is clear and well-supported.
0-35 points	Multiple connections and citations (at least 3) to relevant course readings.
0-15 points	It conveys respect for other points of view even if it takes a contrary position.
0-15 points	The grammar is polished, and citation style conforms to Chicago Manual of Style.

RESPONSE POSTS: In addition to the initiator post, you'll write at least five response posts for each module (for a total of 6 contributions: 1 initiator post + 5 response posts = 6). A response post is one that replies to a classmate's post and continues the conversation. One that ends the conversation or just says "I agree" in so many words does not qualify as a response. Good posts carry on the conversation in an interesting and relevant way and draw other students into the discussion. The minimum requirements for receiving credit for a response post are the following:

1. The post is 50 words.
2. The post is relevant to the thread.
3. The post ends with a question.

Posts under 50 words don't count toward the required number of response posts. If you happen to post a few that are under 50 words, just make sure to post a few extra posts that are 50 words.

If some of your posts don't end in a question, a deduction of **1 point** will be applied to the response post grade.

The penalty for not spacing out your posts over three days will be applied to the response post grade as a **3 point** deduction.

Response posts are due after you post your initiator post and before the board closes.

Extra credit is available for extra qualifying response posts (up to five).

Late response posts will not be accepted. Once the board closes, there are no further opportunities to complete the assignment, so it's advisable to post early to avoid unforeseen events such as last-minute technical problems. Encountering technical issues is not a valid excuse for late work unless the issues are the university's fault.

The discussion board is the focus of this class, the main learning tool (notice the percentage of the grade). I will be active on the boards and hope to be involved in some rich conversations. Be sure to return regularly to the threads to reply to questions and comments, especially in your own thread. Learn how to search for posts, including mine, by using the search function on the board. When I reply to a post, I often take a contrary position as devil's advocate. My response to your posts should be interpreted as "constructive" and an opportunity to strengthen your argument. It doesn't mean that I don't like you or that I have a different viewpoint or political stance than you. In fact, it is nearly impossible to figure out my personal beliefs from my posts. If I express a point of view, I do so for teaching purposes, to help you think more carefully about your own position and to extend the conversation. By the way, it is possible to get an A in this class and disagree with my personal philosophy. In fact, it happens quite regularly.

Cases of plagiarism earn an automatic zero and a possible F in the course. Plagiarized posts may be sent to UT Tyler Judicial Affairs to receive additional consequences. In short, do your own work, and be careful to give credit to the original author when you quote or paraphrase.

Term Paper

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.
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.

Participation: This assignment is different, depending on whether you've signed up for the class in its online or in-class (on-ground) format.

ONLINE STUDENTS: For online students, this assignment requires completing the weekly reading quizzes. There are ten quizzes, and they correspond roughly to the first ten weeks of readings. These quizzes 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 a friend.

IN-CLASS STUDENTS: The reading quizzes do not apply to in-class students. Instead, in-class students will be graded for their attendance and in-class participation. Attendance will be taken regularly. Students are allowed one free unexcused absence. After that, each absence will count as five points off, which will be deducted from “Quiz” categories when attendance sheets are complete, which may happen later in the semester. Participation will be counted by involvement in group case study presentations. This will happen at specific times during the semester. Not adequately participating in a group presentation will result in ten points deducted from Quiz categories. In-class students aren’t allowed to take the quizzes to make up missed classes or presentations.

Course Policies:

Late work policy: Assignments must be submitted by the deadline. A penalty of half a letter grade per day up to two letter grades will be assessed for late assignments. This penalty will be waived only under special circumstances (e.g. a serious illness accompanied by a doctor’s note).

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. If you have an electronic textbook or plan to take notes on your device, please let me know early in the semester. 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 and participation grade. To avoid this deduction, special permission must be received from the instructor or TA.

Extra credit policy: Extra credit is available in the class but only on discussion boards and only when they’re open. Each extra qualifying post (up to five max) will receive one point.

“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.