

## LDST 390: Leadership Ethics Applied in the Field

Fall 2023

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**Content Overview:** In this course, we will learn about ethical theory as it applies to real leadership challenges. Students will improve their public speaking and listening skills. Students will also learn to see complex ethical leadership problems from multiple perspectives. This class aims to improve students' public speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills.

Every week, students will learn about ethical theories and applied leadership cases. Students will spend class time discussing how the ethical theories should inform our understanding of the cases. Outside of class, students will research each case in more detail and develop arguments evaluating the ethics of each case.

Midway through the semester, some students will apply their knowledge of leadership ethics by participating in the intercollegiate ethics bowl competition.

To close, students will spend the remaining weeks of the semester analyzing other dimensions of leadership ethics, including the ethics of education, economics, and public policy. Students will apply their skills and knowledge of leadership ethics as they discuss ethical questions with each other and with people in the community.

**Ethics Objectives:** This course is designed to encourage students to think about ethical questions from different perspectives and to learn about how ethical theory matters for practical questions.

Students will discover philosophical perspectives that change how they think about leadership, work, citizenship, and relationships.

- Students will develop and evaluate moral arguments.
- Students will learn to assess the soundness and validity of an ethical argument.

Students will create original philosophical arguments that address the ethics of leadership.

- Students will verbally present original philosophical arguments.
- Students will defend a philosophical position in response to counterarguments.

Students will apply ethical theories to contexts beyond the classroom.

- Students will critically evaluate ethical questions in conversation with their peers and community members.

### **Embodied Communication Learning Outcomes**

Students will improve their embodied communication skills:

- Through video assignments, active learning in class, and ethics bowl cases, students will develop and deliver a clear and organized message drawing on supporting materials as appropriate to the message and the field.
- Students will respectfully engage with and respond to audience using appropriate vocal, verbal, and nonverbal techniques in video assignments, class activities, and ethics bowl case competitions.
- Students will adapt communication approach and content choice to specific contexts, situations, audiences, and interactions (actual or hypothetical).
- Students will use live and/or non-written multimedia communication in most assignments.

### **Oratory Learning Outcomes**

- Students will create works, individually or collaboratively, that demonstrate a basic knowledge of the vocabulary, concepts, and skills relevant to the practice of oration.
- Students will engage in critique and review of their oratory.
- Students will engage in the creative process needed to make their aesthetic choices and to embrace their cultural agency.
- Students will be able to analyze and interpret oratory with a consideration of the cultural and historical contexts and diverse experiences and perspectives at the core of creative innovation

**Textbook-** [\*A Concise Introduction to Ethics\*](#) by Russ Shafer-Landau

### **Schedule**

Week 1- August 28

M: RSL Chapter 1+2- Morality and moral reasoning

W: RSL Chapter 3- Skepticism

Week 2- September 4

M: RSL Chapter 4- The Good Life

W: RSL Chapter 5- Natural Law

Week 3- September 11

**CASES RELEASED!**

M: RSL Chapter 6- Consequentialism

W: Read all cases

**VIDEO #1 due**

Week 4- September 18  
M: RSL Chapter 7- Kantianism  
W: 2 cases

Week 5- September 25  
M: RSL Chapter 8 - Social Contract theory  
W: 2 cases

Week 6- October 2  
M: RSL Chapter 9- Prima Facie Duties  
W: 2 cases  
**VIDEO #2 due**

Week 7- October 9  
M: RL Chapter 10- Virtue Ethics  
W: 2 cases

Week 8- October 16  
**Fall Break**  
W: 2 cases

Week 9- October 23  
M: RSL Chapter 11- Feminist Ethics  
W: 2 cases  
**Try out!**  
**VIDEO #3 due**

Week 10- October 30  
M: 4 cases (round 2)  
W: 4 cases (round 2)

Week 11- November 6  
M: 4 cases (round 2)  
W: No Reading!  
**ETHICS BOWL COMPETITION**

Week 12- November 13-Ethics and Economics  
M: Exam case 1  
W: Exam case 2  
**VIDEO #4 due**

Week 13- November 20- Ethics and Relationships  
M: Exam case 3  
**Thanksgiving Break**

Week 14- November 27- Ethics and Public Policy  
M: Exam cases 4-5  
W: Exam cases 6-7  
**VIDEO #5 due**

Week 15- December 4- Ethics and Education  
M: Exam cases 8-9  
W: No reading!

Finals week  
**Exam**

**Grading:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Attendance	5%
Class Participation	10%
Perusall etc.	15%
Final Exam	20%
Video Essays	50%

All grades are entered as numbers.

The numerical values of essay grades are:

A+ 98.5	A+/A 97	A 95	A/A- 93	A- 91.5	A-/B+ 90
B+ 88.5	B+/B 87	B 85	B/B- 83	B- 81.5	B-/C+ 80
C+ 78.5	C+/C 77	C 75	C/C- 73	C- 71.5	C-/D+ 70
D+ 68.5	D+/D 67	D 65	D/D- 63	D- 61.5	D-/F 60

The numerical values for final letter grades are:

<b>A+ 100-97</b>	<b>A 96.99-94</b>	<b>A- 93.99-90</b>
<b>B+ 89.99-87</b>	<b>B 86.99-84</b>	<b>B- 83.99-80</b>
<b>C+ 79.99-77</b>	<b>C 77.99-74</b>	<b>C- 73.99-70</b>

<b>D+ 69.99-67</b>	<b>D 66.99-63</b>	<b>D- 63.99-60</b>
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### **Attendance (5%)**

In order to get credit for attendance you must arrive on time to receive your attendance card. Resubmit your card at the end of class for credit.

### **Participation (10%)**

Your participation grade is based on how well you contributed to class discussions and activities I posted participation guidelines online to give you a rough sense of the standards for each grade.

### **Perusall (15%)**

Your perusal grade is based on whether you completed the assigned reading and engaged in conversation on Perusall before class. If you are on the EB team, then your Perusall scores will be temporarily determined by your contributions to the strategy doc.

### **Video Essays (50%)**

One of our goals in this course will be to develop students' argumentative abilities. Students will record five short video essays. Guidelines for each video essay are posted online.

### **Exam (20%)**

The final exam will be an individual ethics bowl competition. The Registrar sets the final exam time and date. Information about the final is posted online.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students may not use course materials from previous versions of this course, and students may not distribute the course materials (e.g., exams) without authorization.

Students must complete every assignment on their own unless otherwise specified.

Students may not use artificial intelligence to assist with assignments.

Students must comply with the UR honor code.

Students may not submit work from previous courses for this course.

*This syllabus may be revised throughout the semester.*