

Leadership Ethics Applied in the Field (LEAF)

Location and Contact Information

Dr. Javier Hidalgo

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Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 12:00 to 1:15 pm

Classroom: Jepson 120

Office Hours: [I post a sign-up sheet for my office hours online](#). Please sign up for office hours there.

Course Description

In Leadership Ethics Applied in the Field (LEAF), we'll examine the ethics of leadership in various applied contexts. LEAF is a public speaking course. You'll learn to debate and present arguments about moral issues related to social justice, medical ethics, business ethics, and democratic deliberation. You'll also participate in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl competition and/or other public speaking opportunities.

What Are the Learning Objectives for this Class?

This course is designed to promote the following learning goals:

- Improve your public speaking abilities: public speaking skills are valuable in a range of different careers and paths in life, especially if you plan on pursuing leadership positions. But most people need guidance and a great deal of practice before they are proficient at public speaking. This class will focus on honing your public speaking skills. Students will often practice public speaking skills and learn strategies for improving them. You'll also participate in Ethics Bowl, a competition that requires both careful ethical analysis and solid public speaking abilities.
- Improve your ability to understand and evaluate ethical issues and arguments: Throughout this course, you'll examine and debate ethical arguments from different perspectives. You'll also learn about ethical

theories and how to apply them to concrete cases. This class will give you an excellent opportunity to practice your critical thinking skills because you'll often analyze, evaluate, and communicate complex ethical arguments.

- Improve your ability to work in a team: this class will often require you to work with other students to conduct research, debate, and refine compelling oral arguments.

This course satisfies the [Embodied Communication](#) and [Visual and Performing Arts Inquiry](#) General Education Requirements. Please click on these links for descriptions of the learning objectives associated with these requirements.

What is Ethics Bowl?

This course is built around Ethics Bowl. Here's one description of what Ethics Bowl Involves:

Ethics Bowls are competitive yet collaborative events in which students discuss real-life ethical issues. In each round of competition, teams take turns analyzing cases about complex ethical dilemmas and responding to questions and comments from the other team and from a panel of judges. An Ethics Bowl differs from a Speech and Debate competition in that students are not assigned opposing views; rather, they defend the position they actually hold or think is reasonable, provide each other with constructive criticism, and win by demonstrating that they have thought rigorously and systematically about the cases and engaged respectfully and supportively with all participants.¹

More concretely, Ethics Bowl is a competition in which you and your team will deliver an oral presentation to a panel of judges in a timed and structured format. You'll also need to respond to objections from the competing team and questions from the judges. Your competitors will be teams from other schools. If possible, every member of the class will participate in an intercollegiate Ethics Bowl or similar public speaking event.

¹ <https://nhseb.org/how>

Course Requirements

There are a total of 1000 possible points in this class. The points will be distributed as follows:

| Point Total | Description |
|--|--|
| <u>Citizenship</u> (150) Click on the links to see a rubric for each assignment! | I expect you to be an active, appropriate, and interesting contributor to the class, both in class and group discussions. I understand that speaking up in class is difficult for some students. To that end, this grade encompasses more than hand-raising. I primarily ask that all students are good citizens of the course. Thus, you should be present, clearly attentive, and show engagement in other ways. |
| <u>Case Research</u> (200) | For each case, you'll need to do some background research. This can involve investigating the sources in the case, looking up additional sources and explaining them, considering how different ethical theories apply to the case, and more. Every time that I assign a case as reading, you'll need to complete a brief research assignment on this case before class starts. |
| <u>Ethical Theory and Case Presentations</u> (100) | In the first half of the semester, you'll give two speeches in which you'll provide an ethical analysis of a case. I'll only take your highest score out of these two speeches. This low-stakes assignment will help you to understand the ethical theories that we'll learn about, and give you preliminary feedback on your approach to oral presentations. |
| <u>Written Ethical Analyses</u> (200) | You'll be assigned an ethics bowl case and you'll submit a paper discussing this case. The paper will require you to analyze the case from an ethical perspective. You'll need to complete two case analyses in total. Each analysis is worth 100 points. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p><u>First and Second Ethics Bowls (350)</u></p> | <p>You'll participate in two ethics bowls. You'll need to provide an oral presentation that analyzes a case and you'll then engage in a conversation with your classmates about this case. I'll provide you with the cases before your presentation and you'll need to prepare for all of them, drawing on the case research and analysis that you and your fellow students have provided. The first ethics bowl is worth 150 points and the second is worth 200 points.</p> |
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See [this document](#) for additional notes on grading in this class

Supporting Your Learning

I care about your success in this class and I'm willing to help you in any way possible. If you'd like to meet with me, you can sign up for my office hours [here](#) (note that I update my office hours for the coming week on Saturday or early Sunday).

If you'd like to leave me an anonymous comment with any questions or concerns, please see [this form](#).

Laptops

Please do not use your laptop, ipad, or phone during class unless I explicitly ask you to. I ask this because a growing body of research finds that the use of laptops and cell phones in class diminish student learning.

The Readings

All readings are available on the blackboard page for this class. But there are two things to keep in mind about the schedule below.

First, this is a new class. When you try something new, things happen that you don't anticipate. This means that I will likely change the syllabus as the semester progresses in response to how the class is going.

Second, the organization that runs Ethics Bowl only releases its materials after our semester begins. So, I'll need to adjust the syllabus after this organization releases this information.

I'll announce any changes to the syllabus in class and you can always find the updated syllabus on blackboard.

Class Schedule

Week 1:

Tuesday, August 27th:

- Russ Schafer-Landau, "What is Morality?" and "Skepticism about Morality."

Thursday, August 29th:

- Russ Schafer-Landau, "Moral Reasoning."

Week 2:

Tuesday, September 3rd:

- Russ Schafer-Landau, "The Good Life" and "Consequentialism."

Thursday, September 5th:

- Russ Schafer-Landau, "Kantian Ethics" and "the Ethic of Prima Facie Duties."

Week 3:

Tuesday, September 10th:

- Russ Schafer-Landau, "Virtue Ethics" and "Feminist Ethics and the Ethics of Care."

Thursday, September 12th: Introduction to Ethics Bowl.

- **Ethical Theory Speech due before class starts**
- Read packet of materials on ethics bowl
- Skim cases and see which cases most interest you

- If time allows, we'll begin some public speaking exercises

Week 4:

Tuesday, September 17th:

- Case 1 and 2
- First case research assignment due before class. From now on, you have a case research assignment each time that there is a case assigned as reading for a class session
- Keep in mind that I will need to adjust the syllabus after the Ethics Bowl cases are released! Please check the online syllabus for the most accurate and updated version

Thursday, September 19th:

- Case 3 and 4

Week 5:

Tuesday, September 24th:

- Case 5 and 6

Thursday, September 26th:

- Mock ethics bowl and/or public speaking exercises

Week 6:

Monday, September 30th:

- **Ethical Case Speech due by midnight**

Tuesday, October 1st:

- Cases 7 and 8

Thursday, October 3rd:

- Cases 9 and 10

Week 7:

Tuesday, October 8th:

- Cases 11 and 12

Thursday, October 10th:

- Mock ethics bowl and/or public speaking exercises

Week 8:

Tuesday, October 15th: Fall Break

Thursday, October 17th:

- Cases 13 and 14

Week 9:

Monday, October 21st:

- **First Case Analysis due by midnight**

Tuesday, October 22nd:

- Review cases and public speaking strategies

Thursday, October 24th:

- Practice for First Ethics Bowl

Week 10:

Tuesday, October 29th:

- First Ethics Bowl

Thursday, October 31st:

- First Ethics Bowl

Week 11:

Tuesday, November 5th:

- First Ethics Bowl

Thursday, November 7th:

- First Ethics Bowl

Week 12:

Tuesday, November 12th:

- Topic selection and next steps
- If time allows: non-argumentative public speaking exercises

Thursday, November 14th:

- Cases 1 and 2

Week 13:

Weekend: Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl!

Tuesday, November 19th:

- Cases 3 and 4

Thursday, November 21st:

- Cases 5 and 6

Week 14:

Tuesday, November 26th:

- Cases 7 and 8

Thursday, November 28th: Thanksgiving

Week 15:

Monday, December 2nd:

- **Second Case Analysis due by midnight**

Tuesday, December 3rd:

- Review and practice for Second Ethics Bowl

Thursday, December 5th:

- **Second Ethics Bowl**

Second Ethics Bowl: Monday, December 9th, 2-5pm.