

Leadership Ethics Applied in the Field (LEAF)

Location and Contact Information

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Class Time: Monday & Wednesday, 10:30am to 11:45pm

Classroom: Jepson 101

Office Hours: [I post a sign-up sheet for my office hours online](#). Please sign up for office hours there. I update my office hours on Sunday afternoon for the upcoming week.

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

¹ <https://nhseb.org/how>

teams from other schools. Every member of the class will participate in an intercollegiate Ethics Bowl or similar public speaking event.

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>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. This assignment is worth 100 points and 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>Case Notes</u> (200)	Ethics Bowl is built around controversial ethical cases, and we'll discuss all of these cases in-class. But, to prepare you for the discussion and for Ethics Bowl, I'll ask you to complete a case note before any class session in which we discuss a case. For this case note, you'll need to take a position on the ethics of the case and develop arguments for your position. Crucially,

	you'll need to give a brief speech based on this material to another student in the class. Each case note is worth about 20 points.
<u>Non-Argumentative Public Speaking</u> (100)	Near the end of the semester, you'll submit a short non-argumentative speech. The speech might be a toast, a story, a joke, a eulogy, or another kind of non-argumentative public speaking.
<u>Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl</u> (100)	Students in this class will form teams and compete in two intercollegiate ethics bowls. The first ethics bowl is on November 1st and this will take place in Jacksonville, FL. The second ethics bowl will be online, on November 8th. Every student in this class is required to participate in one intercollegiate ethics bowl. However, if for some reason it's not possible for you to serve on one of the teams, then you must complete an alternative assignment that is substantially similar to an intercollegiate ethics bowl.
<u>First and Second Ethics Bowls</u> (350)	You'll participate in two in-class 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 have completed. The first ethics bowl is worth 150 points and the second is worth 200 points.

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 and Other Devices

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. So, if you use a laptop or other device without authorization during class, I'll ask you to put it away. Please review the class participation rubric for more information on my policies regarding laptops.

The Readings

All readings are available on the blackboard page for this class. But here's something to keep in mind about the schedule below. 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:

Monday, August 25th:

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

Wednesday, August 27th:

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

Week 2:

Monday, September 1st:

- Russ Schafer-Landau, "Kantian Ethics."

Wednesday, September 3rd:

- Russ Schafer-Landau, "Virtue Ethics."

Week 3:

Monday, September 8th:

- Russ Schafer-Landau, "Economic Injustice and Economic Inequality."

Wednesday, September 10th: Introduction to Ethics Bowl.

- **Ethical Theory Speech due before class starts**
- Read packet of materials on ethics bowl & the cases.
- Public speaking exercises.

Week 4:

Monday, September 15th: Autonomy and Paternalism

- Cases: 1. A Pound of Flesh, 15. Oh, Snap!
- Your first case notes are due at the beginning of class. There is a case note due at the beginning of each class until we are finished with all of the cases (October 8th). You should select one of the cases for each session, take a position on the ethics of this case, and develop arguments for your position (including a response to an objection). Next, you must give a brief speech to one of your classmates that draws on this material, before class starts. See the rubric on case notes for more detail.

Wednesday, September 17th: Democratic legitimacy, sovereignty, & inclusion

- Cases: 4. Shutting Out Le Pen, 6. Tamil Autonomy, and 9. You Can't Sit With Us.

Week 5:

Monday, September 22nd: Religious accommodation and state neutrality

- Cases: 7. It's All Gravy, Baby and 13. Red Flags.

Wednesday, September 24th: Punishment and equality before the law

- Cases: 11. Too Young to Rent a Car, Old Enough for Life? and 12. Lady Justice.

Week 6:

Monday, September 29th: Environmental stewardship & the commons

- Cases: 2. Ashes to Ashes, Dust to... Soil? and 3. Curb Your Overtourism.

Wednesday, October 1st: Art, culture & moral limits

- Cases: 5. Inclusion or Erasure? and 8. And Now You Care?

Week 7:

Monday, October 6th: Markets and Citizenship

- Cases: 10. All That Glitters and 14. Births of a Nation.

Wednesday, October 8th:

- Practice for First Ethics Bowl
- **Ethical Case Speech due by midnight**

Week 8:

Monday, October 13th: Fall Break

Wednesday, October 15th:

- First Ethics Bowl

Week 9:

Monday, October 20th:

- First Ethics Bowl

Wednesday, October 22nd:

- First Ethics Bowl

Week 10:

Monday, October 27th:

- First Ethics Bowl

Wednesday, October 29th:

- Team Practice

Week 11:

Weekend (November 1st and 2nd): **In-Person Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl!**

Monday, November 3rd:

- Topic selection and next steps
- Non-Argumentative Public Speaking

Wednesday, November 5th:

- Non-Argumentative Public Speaking

Week 12:

Saturday, November 8th: **Online Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl!**

Monday, November 10th:

- Non-Argumentative Public Speaking

Wednesday, November 12th:

- Final Cases 1-2
- A case note is due for this session, and the following two sessions.

Week 13:

Monday, November 17th:

- Class cancelled.

Wednesday, November 19th:

- Final Cases 3-4
- Case note is due.

Friday, November 21st:

- **Non-argumentative speech due by midnight.**

Week 14:

Monday, November 24th:

- Final Cases 5-6.
- Final case note is due.

Wednesday, November 26th: Thanksgiving

Week 15:

Monday, December 1st:

- Second Ethics Bowl

Wednesday, December 3rd:

- Second Ethics Bowl

Final: Monday December 8th from 9am-12pm

- **Second Ethics Bowl**