

## **LDST 450: Leadership Ethics**

Prof. Jessica Flanigan

Office: Jepson 119f

Email: [flanigan@richmond.edu](mailto:flanigan@richmond.edu)

**Overview:** This course is about the ethics of leadership. Students will learn about the ethics of leadership by applying ethical theories and deliberative principles to their own lives every week. In Part 1, students learn about philosophical methodology and ethical theories. These readings provide a foundation for understanding how leaders should make tradeoffs in morally complex situations. Part 2 is about the specific challenges that leaders and followers face when they deliberate about their moral obligations. In Part 3, students reflect on the development of their character and career plans in light of the previous lessons. In this final part of the course, we discuss the challenge of balancing self-interest against the duty to assist others and the relationship between morality and meaningful life.

**Objectives:** This course is the capstone class for a Leadership Studies degree. Students are encouraged to reflect on the moral dimensions of leadership considering their Jepson education and their plans going forward.

- Students will discover theories and arguments that change how they think about leadership, work, equality, politics, and the meaning of life.
- Students will develop skills that enable them to develop and evaluate moral arguments.
- Students will write and revise original philosophical essays that address the ethics of leadership.
- Students will apply ethical theories to contexts beyond the classroom.

### **Assignments**

#### **Exams**

- Ethical Theory Midterm (10%)
- Applied Leadership Ethics Midterm (10%)
- Cumulative Final Exam (20%)

#### **Essay (20%)**

- Topic Worksheet [10 points]
  - Due in class
  - 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.
- Thesis/Outline worksheet + meeting [10 points]
  - Due in person. Sign up for a meeting by the end of week 2.
  - 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.
- Sources Worksheet [10 points]
  - Due in class
  - 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.
- Rough draft + meeting [50 points]
  - Due in person. Sign up for a meeting by the end of week 10.
  - 3 points will be deducted if you do not schedule a meeting in time.
  - 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.
- Final draft [20 points]

- Due via email at 11:59 on the last day of class.
- 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.

### **Purpose Projects (30%)**

- Top 4 ethical theory purpose projects (10%)
- Top 3 applied leadership ethics purpose projects (10%)
- Top 3 meaning of life purpose projects (10%)

### **Engagement (10%)**

- Engagement guidelines will be distributed on the first day of class

**Y2K Pedagogy:** For the most part, this is a low-tech class. The course does not have a website. Students will read from course packs. Except for the final essay, all assignments will be written by hand. Email is discouraged. If you need to talk to the instructor, please come to office hours or schedule an appointment before or after class.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students may not use artificial intelligence to assist with any assignments.

Students may not use course materials from previous versions of this course.

Students may not distribute the course materials without authorization.

Students may not record class discussions.

Students may not record lectures without authorization.

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

Students must comply with the UR honor code.

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

Laptops, e-readers, phones, and iPads are not permitted in class.

Smartwatches must be silenced in “classroom mode.”

### **Grades:**

Students are encouraged to track their progress in the course by recording their grades.

Students can visit office hours to see a record of their grades.

Final grades are not calculated until the end of the semester.

All graded work will be returned to students, who should keep this work until final grades have been submitted.

Final letter grades correspond to the following numerical values (A+ 100-97; A 96.99-94; A- 93.99-90; B+ 89.99-87; B 86.99-84; B- 83.99-80; C+ 79.99-77; C 77.99-74; C- 73.99-70...)

### **Materials (provided)**

- 3 course packs
- Composition book
- Folder

*This syllabus may be revised throughout the semester.*

## Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Part 1- Ethical Theory				
1a	August 26	Intro		
1b	August 28	Methods	Thomson	
2a	September 2	Utilitarianism	Chappell	Purpose Project #1
2b	September 4	Integrity	Williams	Sign up for T/O meeting
3a	September 9	Coercion	Pallikkathayil	Purpose Project #2
3b	September 11	Deception	Schapiro	<b>Topic Worksheet</b>
4a	September 16	Respect	Velleman	Purpose Project #3
4b	September 18	Partiality	Scheffler	
5a	September 23	Privacy	Berstler	Purpose Project #4
5b	September 25			<b>Midterm #1</b>
Part 2- Applied Leadership Ethics				
6a	September 30	Resistance	Hill	Purpose Project #5
6b	October 2	Partisanship	Joshi	
7a	October 7	Social Equality	Spafford	Purpose Project #6
7b	October 9	Material Equality	Frankfurt	<b>Thesis/Outline/Meeting</b>
8a	October 14	Fall Break		Sign up for draft meeting
8b	October 16	Hypocrisy	Dover	Purpose Project #7
9a	October 21	Disobedience	Huemer	Purpose Project #8
9b	October 23	Fairness	Brown	<b>Sources Worksheet</b>
10a	October 28	Efficiency	Parfit	Purpose Project #9
10b	October 30			<b>Midterm #2</b>
Part 3- The Meaning of Life				
11a	November 4	Forgiveness	Preston-Roeder	Purpose Project #10
11b	November 6	Selflessness	Hampton	
12a	November 11	Regret	Moller	Purpose Project #11
12b	November 13	Writing Day		
13a	November 18	Ambition	Glasgow	Purpose Project #12
13b	November 20	Achievement	Ngyuen	<b>Draft/Meeting</b>
14a	November 25	Midlife Crisis	Setiya	Purpose Project #13
14b	November 27	Thanksgiving		
15a	December 2	Legacy	Scheffler	Purpose Project #14
15b	December 4	Death	Nagel	<b>Final Essay</b>
F	December 9	Review Session		Purpose Project #15
	Dec 11/15			<b>Final Exam</b>