## Christine Habbard

HASS

Jan. 2018

## 02.109 Ethics of Leadership

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Description generated with very high confidence**

**Subject Description:**

This course will deal with the specific ethical issues arising from a position of leadership. “With great power comes great responsibility”, said a famous superhero. What exactly does this moral responsibility entail? Does the leader have specific obligations? Does his position confer more, or other, rights? What do we mean by a “good” leader? Is it only a matter of efficiency, or does the “good” also involve a specific ethical capability? Does good leadership mean the same thing in different contexts – war, business, politics? Is a good leader the same as a just leader? What mechanisms of accountability does or should leadership entail?

The course will proceed by envisaging different types of leadership, on the basis of texts and case-studies. We will discuss general ethical theories, and dimensions of human activity more concerned with ethics of leadership: politics, war, business, science, art, family, religion, etc. We will look at connected themes, such as authority, power, governance, to delineate the concept of leadership more precisely, and look at the ethical scope of this particular dimension of human life.

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| **Assessment**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Assessment Items** | **Percentage** | **Period** | | *Attendance* | *10%* | *Throughout the term* | | *Mid-term assignment* | *30%* | *Due Week 7* | | *Oral Presentation* | *30%* | *Throughout the term* | | *Final Paper* | *30%* | *Due Week 14* | |
| **Policies**  The use of cellphones is not allowed in class.  Late arrivals to class will not be accepted.  Late submission of assignments will not be accepted. |

**Course Outline:**

**Week 1: General presentation of ethical theories. Deontology, consequentialism, utilitarianism, virtue ethics, ethical dilemmas.**

Aristotle*, Nicomachean Ethics,* Bk II, 4-9.

Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals,* excerpts.

Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, ch. 1 “On the Principle of Utility”.

JP Sartre, *Existentialism is a Humanism.*

**Week 2: The Ethics of Authority**

Ethical theories, contd. What distinguishes authority, power and force? Why obey?

Hannah Arendt, “What is Authority”

---- , *Reflections on Violence and Power*, NYRB 1969

----, *Eichmann in Jerusalem - The Banality of Evil*

Case study: Zimbardo, Milgram experiments

Milgram: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdrKCilEhC0>

Zimbardo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=760lwYmpXbc>

**Week 3: Political leadership**

What makes a great political leader?

Plato. The Republic, Book VI.

Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III.

Confucius, *Analects*

Cicero, *On Duties*, Book I, ch. 25- 26- 27.

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. XIII, XVIII.

Case Study:

Nelson Mandela <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjYm78K6aNI>

Winston Churchill, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FipWwE4ZjBU>

**Week 4: Political Leadership, contd**

Dilemmas, compromises and dirty hands.

*Virtu* and Fortune.

The “*Eminence grise*”, or the power behind power.

Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ch. 14, 17, 18, 25.

Max Weber, *Politics as a Vocation.*

Walzer, Michael. “Political Action: The Problem of Dirty Hands.” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 2, no. 2 (Winter, 1973): 160-80.

Cicero*, On Duties*, ch. 23, 24. (The Raft dilemma)

Magalit, Avishai, “Indecent Compromise, Decent Peace”, Tanner Lectures on Human Values

Moral dilemmas: <http://www.friesian.com/valley/dilemmas.htm>

Case studies:

The Dresden Bombing <http://ethics-of-war.blogspot.sg/2015/04/the-dresden-bombings.html>

The Ticking Bomb: <http://ethics-of-war.blogspot.sg/search/label/Ticking%20bomb>

Case Study 2: Empress Jia Nanfeng, Richelieu, Kissinger, Littlefinger

**Week 5: Military Leadership**

Clausewitz, *On War*, ch. 1-2.

Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

Case Studies:

General Giap, battle of Dien Bien Phu, 1954 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TJ1KJJuJ3M>

The Fall of Singapore, 1942, Percival vs. Yamashita

Rommel, the Desert Fox

**Week 6: Military Leadership and Legal Responsibility**

The laws of war, *jus in bello, jus ad bellum*, and the responsibility of the commanding officer.

Thomas Aquinas,*Summa Theologica,* II, 40, “On War”.

Geoffrey Best, *War and Law since 1945*, chap. 5 and 6.

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, part IV, chap. 14, 18, 19.

Case Study:

Nuremberg Trials, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5lsb1gjAds>

ICTY, Yamashita principle

P. Gaeta, “The Defence of Superior Orders”, IJIL 1999.

**Week 7**: Recess

**Week 8: Business Leadership – White Collar Criminality**

E. Sutherland, “White Collar Criminality”, *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (Feb., 1940), pp. 1-12

Piff et.al., “Higher Social Class Predicts Increased Unethical Behavior”

Case Study: Nick Leeson

<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/guilty-as-charged-rogue-trader-nick-leeson-brought-down-britains-oldest>

<http://www.nickleeson.com/consultancy/>

**Week 9: The Conductor, The Captain**

Conrad, Joseph. "The Secret Sharer." In *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*. New York, NY: Dover, 1993.

Case Study:

Conductors:

* Itay Talgam, “Leadership Lessons from a Symphony Conductor”,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm8cASg_CQo>

* David Robertson, The Art of Conducting, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKak7V6al1I>

Team captains: <http://www.businessinsider.sg/captains-of-best-sports-teams-shared-7-traits-2017-8/?r=US&IR=T>

**Week10: Religious Leadership: The Prophet, The Priest**

Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. "The Grand Inquisitor." In *The Brothers Karamazov*. Translated by Constance Garnett. Hollywood, FL: Simon & Brown, 2011.

Case Study: Abraham

Ron Hubbard <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/10726672/Scientology-how-L-Ron-Hubbards-heir-became-his-fiercest-critic.html>

**Week 11: Family and Patriarchy**

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex,* Introduction.

Solnit, *Men Explain Things to Me*, Haymarket Books, 2014, ch. 1 and 2.

Case Study: #Metoo

**Week 12: Challenging Leadership**

Regicide and revolutions. When is it legitimate to challenge leadership?

Locke, *2nd Treatise of Civil Government*, ch. 18 and 19.

Shakespeare, Julius Caesar, Charleston, SC: CreateSpace, 2010.

Walzer, “Regicide and Revolution”, Social research 1973.

Case Study: The French Revolution, Louis XVI

Political assassinations: Anwar Sadate, Itzak Rabin, Gandhi

**Week 13: Recap: What Makes a Good Leader?**

List of readings TBA