



Critical Thinking and Public Service Leadership 2026- 2027

Instructor: Jordan Coats

Course: Critical Thinking and Public Service Leadership

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Term: 2026- 2027

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Office Location: 3rd Floor Green

Office Hours:

M- 3:00- 3:45

Th- 3:00- 3:45

Course Description

Critical Thinking & Public Service Leadership (CTPSL) is a course designed to help students build the personal effectiveness habits, critical thinking skills, and leadership mindset needed for success in school, career, and community life. Using *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* as a foundational text alongside Leader in Me resources, students will move beyond reading about effective habits to actually practicing them through structured reflection, goal-setting, organizational systems, and hands-on application. Students will also explore public service career pathways and complete a community service requirement, connecting classroom learning to real-world civic engagement. Throughout the course, students will develop the organizational, communicative, and reflective skills necessary to take ownership of their own growth. Students will additionally complete a WordPress certification component, further building their technical and career-readiness skill set.

Goals & Standards

This course is aligned with the Florida Department of Education's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Critical Thinking & Public Service Leadership course [standards](#).

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply personal effectiveness habits (as outlined in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*) to academic and personal goal-setting
- Use organizational tools (planners, reflection systems) to manage responsibilities independently
- Engage in critical thinking and productive discussion around leadership and public service topics
- Explore public service career pathways and the skills/knowledge they require
- Plan and complete a community service project connected to course learning
- Communicate effectively, both in writing and in collaborative/group settings



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Course Schedule

Texts/Media: media resources are ongoing and will be added throughout the year (TBD). Time frames are approximate and may shift.

Unit	Time Frame	Summative Assessments	Texts/Media
Unit 1: Community & Foundations — orientation, goal-setting, planner setup	Weeks 1–2	—	Media: Ongoing/TBD
Unit 2: The 7 Habits, Part 1 — personal effectiveness habits + Leader in Me application	Weeks 3–6	Reading reflection quiz(zes)	<i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> ; Media: Ongoing/TBD
Unit 3: The 7 Habits, Part 2 — interdependence habits + Leader in Me application	Weeks 7–11	Reading reflection quiz(zes)	<i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> ; Media: Ongoing/TBD
Unit 4: Closing the Book Study & Reflection	Weeks 12–14	Major summative writing reflection (7 Habits book study)	<i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> ; Media: Ongoing/TBD
Unit 5: Semester 1 Wrap / Bridge to Semester 2	Weeks 15–18	—	Media: Ongoing/TBD
Unit 6: Public Service Career Exploration	Semester 2	Public service careers test and presentation projects	Media: Ongoing/TBD
Unit 7: Community Service Project	Semester 2	Community service project & reflection	Media: Ongoing/TBD



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Requirements & Procedures

- Texts Needed for Course
 - *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* (provided, once the unit begins)
- Materials Needed for Course
 - Binder section/divider for this class (may be shared with other classes)
 - Loose-leaf paper
 - Pens and pencils
 - Highlighters
 - Index cards
 - Planner (provided, and required by the 9th grade team)
- Homework policy
 - Homework in this course is generally light and will most often include: assigned readings from *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, work not completed during class time, and occasional projects as directed by Mrs. Coats.

General Expectations

4Rs

- Responsible: Students must attend and be on time to class.
- Respectful: Students must show respect for each other and the classroom/school space.
- Resilient: Students are willing to take on challenges and use skills to overcome them.
- Ready: Students are prepared to work and learn everyday.

Please review the information shared within the following links:

- [Code of Student Conduct](#)

Late Work Policy

- Late work is accepted **only** with prior communication with Mrs. Coats. Due dates will always be posted on Canvas. Absences do allow for late work to be turned in, but students must still communicate with Mrs. Coats about it.

Communication Protocols

- Students can communicate with me by sending a Canvas message, emailing me at JCoats@pky.ufl.edu, or visiting me during my office hours.



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- Families can communicate with me by sending a Canvas message, emailing me at JCoats@pky.ufl.edu, or scheduling a parent teacher conference.

Electronic Device Policy

- Students must come to class every day with their charged Chromebook. During class, the Chromebook should be used only to participate in the class. Students should not have personal electronic devices out during class at any time for any purpose, unless instructed to do so. Students are not permitted to have headphones/airpods of any kind on while in class unless instructed to do so.

Grading Policy and Assessments

Type	Examples	% of Grade
Habits of Work	- Weekly planner checks - Class preparedness and participation - Following classroom procedures and routines	5%
Formative	- Reading reflection quizzes - In-class activities and checks for understanding	20%
Summative	- Major writing reflection on <i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> - Exams - Community service project and reflection	75%

Mastery-Language	Point Value on	Letter Grade	Range	Meets Standard
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	Rubric		(4-point grade system)	Course Credit Earned
Mastery	4	A	3.51 - 4.0	GPA Point 4
Proficient	3.5	B	3.01 - 3.5	GPA Point 3
Approaching	3	C	2.51 - 3	GPA Point 2
Beginning	2.5	D	2.01 - 2.5	GPA Point 1
Not Meeting	1	F	.01 - 2.0	No Course Credit
No Evidence	0	F	0	No Course Credit

Academic Dishonesty

It is expected that the work you submit in this and all of your courses is your own original work, or if not, contains full acknowledgment of borrowed sources. The following instances are academically dishonest:

- Students are expected to complete their own original work. This includes a **strict no-AI policy**: students may not use AI tools (ChatGPT or similar) to complete any assignment **unless explicitly instructed to do so by Mrs. Coats**. Any confirmed use of AI in violation of this policy will result in an **automatic zero** on the assignment, regardless of whether it falls under habits of work, formative, or summative grading, and the assignment will **NOT** be eligible for a redemptive attempt.
- The same policy applies to **plagiarism of any kind**, including copying another student's work, submitting work found online, or otherwise presenting someone else's work as your own. Any confirmed instance will result in an **automatic zero** on the assignment, regardless of grading category.

Any academic dishonesty will result in the *failure of that assignment as the minimum consequence*; other consequences range from failure of the course to academic probation to dismissal from P.K. Yonge.

ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the student's counselor and P.K. Yonge Administration.