

SYLLABUS FOR LAP-5000

Liberal Arts And Professional Life

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to define the liberal arts and explore their relevance in today's world. Proceeding from the past to modern times, the course provides a broad overview of the liberal arts throughout the world, including history, the arts and sciences, literature, the social sciences, and philosophy/religion. With graduate mentor guidance, students will conduct independent research and will relate their findings to workplace or community experiences. As its major objective, this course examines the content, meaning, and interrelationship of the liberal arts and their direct relevance to the intellectual and moral formation of the working professional. Students will explore a selection of texts that illuminate fundamental issues outside of the workplace, in which professionals exercise their responsibilities. As part of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) curriculum, this course provides a basis for subsequent courses by encouraging an appreciation of the liberal arts as a formative influence in Western history and culture and establishing a common understanding of the implications of the professions and professionalism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- CO 1** Explore the relevance of the liberal arts to professional life.
- CO 2** Develop an understanding of the diverse dimensions of professional life and the relation of these to one another.
- CO 3** Explore the realization that professional leadership requires not only cognitive and affective skills but ethical sensitivities as well.
- CO 4** Evaluate the community values, goals, and aspirations of professional life.
- CO 5** Assess the conflicts between personal and institutional values and identify possible solutions to those conflicts.
- CO 6** Summarize the value of cultural and moral diversity and the demands they entail for professional leadership.
- CO 7** Evaluate the nature and justification of change and stability in professional environments.

- CO 8** Improve skills of analysis, synthesis, and argumentation and thereby enhance capacity to render sensitive, responsive, comprehensive, professional judgments.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. To purchase course materials, please visit the [University's textbook supplier](#).

Required Textbook(s)

- Johnson, W. B., & Ridley, C. R. (2008). *The elements of ethics for professionals*. Palgrave MacMillan.
ISBN-13: 978-0230603912
- Nussbaum, M. C. (2010). *Not for profit: Why democracy needs the humanities*. Princeton University Press.
ISBN-13: 978-0691154480
- Paul, R. W., & Elder, L. (2002). *Critical thinking: Tools for taking charge of your professional and personal life*. Financial Times Prentice Hall.
ISBN-13: 978-0130647603
- Sullivan, W. M. (2005). *Work and integrity: The crisis and promise of professionalism in America* (2nd ed.). Jossey-Bass.
ISBN-13: 978-0787974589

Supplementary Material

- Links to select Internet articles, videos, and so on are provided in the individual modules.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Liberal Arts and Professional Life is a three-credit, online course consisting of 10 modules. Modules include an overview, topics, learning objectives, study materials, and activities. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: What Is the Place of the Liberal Arts in Contemporary Education and Society?**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 4
- **Module 2: The Place of the Liberal Arts in Personal and Professional Development: Education for the World**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 7, CO 8
- **Module 3: Calling or Career: Is Professionalism Obsolete?**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 3, CO 4
- **Module 4: History of Professionalism: Ideals of Leadership**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 6
- **Module 5: The Professional Confronts Moral Expediency**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 3, CO 6
- **Module 6: Moral Expediency Versus Moral Obligation**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 4, CO 6
- **Module 7: Virtue or Rule: Different Approaches to Ethics?**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 6, CO 8
- **Module 8: Flexibility in Times of Change**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 6, CO 8
- **Module 9: Thinking Globally in Corporate and Organizational Life**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 5, CO 8
- **Module 10: Technology and the Liberal Arts: Tension and Freedom**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 6

ASSESSMENT METHODS

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums and complete essays. See below for more details.

Consult the Course Calendar for due dates.

Promoting Originality—One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in [this document](#).



Discussion Forums

You are required to participate in **11** graded discussion forums. Discussion forums are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

Located within the Evaluation Rubrics section of the course website is the online discussion forum rubric used to aid in the grading of all online discussion assignments.



Written Assignments

You are required to complete **four** essays. The essays are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules. In general, each essay will be 4 to 6 pages in length.

Located within the Evaluation Rubrics section of the course website is the short paper rubric used to aid in the grading of all research exercises within this course.



Final Paper

The final project will be submitted in two parts: a basic outline and a final paper.

In this paper, you will relate how your experience and knowledge of liberal studies has influenced and will continue to influence your professional life. You will prepare an outline based on the first nine module themes, and once approved, your outline will be the basis of the final paper. In your final paper, you will write about the ways in which liberal studies has contributed to your professional interests, aspirations, and experiences.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Discussion forums (11)**—30%
- **Written assignments (4)**—40%
- **Final paper**—30%

All activities will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

A	= 93–100	B	= 83–87
A–	= 90–92	C	= 73–82
B+	= 88–89	F	= Below 73

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or higher on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., assignments, discussion postings, projects). Graduate students must maintain a B average overall to remain in good academic standing.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Take time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.
- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.
- If you are not familiar with web-based learning, be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Course Calendar. The Course Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and submitting the final project.
- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students

TESU's [Academic Code of Conduct](#) permits student AI use in support of their writing and research process—not as a replacement for original writing. Document AI use with an acknowledgment statement

at the end of each assignment, noting the tools and prompts used. Cite any AI-generated content on the References page. Please review [Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students](#) for more detailed information.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Thomas Edison State University recognizes, values, and relies upon the diversity of our community. We strive to provide equitable, inclusive learning experiences that embrace our students' backgrounds, identities, experiences, abilities, and expertise.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Thomas Edison State University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990; ADAAA, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) oversees requests for academic accommodations related to disabilities; a student who is pregnant, postpartum, or a student parenting a newborn who is not the birth parent [as covered under NJSA18A]; and students requesting academic accommodation for a short-term/temporary illness and/or injury. Information can be found on the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) webpage and questions can be sent to ADA@tesu.edu.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

To ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University, familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies including those related to academic integrity, course late submissions, course extensions, and grading policies.

For more, see:

- [University-wide policies](#)
- [Undergraduate academic policies](#)
- [Undergraduate course policies](#)
- [Graduate academic policies](#)
- [Graduate course policies](#)
- [Nursing student policies](#)
- [Nursing graduate student policies](#)
- [International student policies](#)
- [Academic code of conduct](#)