

## Module 1 Notes

### On Ethical Leadership:

At a time when every individual wields the potential to lead, the need to cultivate and nurture ethical leadership takes center stage. This course, Introduction to Ethical Leadership, is not just a requirement; it's a transformative journey that illuminates the nexus between leadership and ethics. As we take a close look at how we can all best lead, we will explore the uncomfortable truth that not all leadership is ethical and that the well-being of our society hinges upon the conscious practice of ethical leadership.

In an era marked by unprecedented challenges and access, we confront the reality that ethical leadership is not an innate trait, reserved for a chosen few rather it is a skill honed through dedication, introspection, and the relentless pursuit of moral excellence. This class embraces the philosophy that leadership is not a title, but a way of being – cultivating virtues and skills. We shall journey together to tackle difficult inquiries because St. Thomas University is committed to fostering ethical leadership, not just a choice but an obligation.

Together, we will challenge the status quo, disrupt the cycle of unethical leadership, and emerge as catalysts for positive change. Our journey begins here, where we acknowledge that ethical leadership is not merely a desirable quality but an imperative for the betterment of our world.

*"The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness." - Pope Benedict XVI*

### On Leadership Roles:

In the tapestry of leadership, Yogi Berra's wisdom unveils a fundamental truth: the lack of direction leads to unintended destinations. As we embark on exploring ethical leadership, we consider that just as a ship requires a captain to navigate the seas, leadership necessitates a clear moral compass, and vision. In this exploration, we consider the correlation between leadership, ethics, and vision, recognizing that to chart a course of positive influence, one must embrace a purposeful path rooted in values and intentionality.

Welcome to week two of ethical leadership where we examine the concept that leadership extends beyond titles and positions. In fact, leadership resides in each of us, regardless of our roles, since each of us holds within us the power to influence, inspire, and shape the world around us.

*"If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up somewhere else." - Yogi Berra*

### Understanding Leadership Beyond Titles

Leadership is not confined to the realm of those with formal titles or positions. It's a calling that applies to every individual, for we all possess the capacity to impact others. "True leadership is attained and possessed as an expression of a person's character . . . [i]t is forged in the inner being of the person, it is the fruit of long training, of seriously engaging the fight against self, of wrestling with the many individual decisions in the challenge of life, all with the help of God." (Habiger, 2021, p. 21)

*"The greatest among you will be your servant." - Matthew 23:11*