ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE ETHICS & LEADERSHIP FLAG IN
CC 303 (INTRO TO CLASSICAL MYTH)

Deborah Beck
Department of Classics
UT Austin

January 30, 2015
I. What is (and is not!!) necessary to implement an EL flag effectively

II. My course design

III. Specific examples of course activities incorporating EL-related ideas

Definitely NOT necessary:
**All course components include EL elements**

**Discussion board (counts 5% of semester grade):**
Daily discussion board features three reading questions, one of which is ethics-related – I read and respond to all posts

**Four journal entries (counts 5% of semester grade):**
Students write 350-word responses applying ethics terminology and analysis to modern situations – marked by TAs, primarily for completion

**Clicker questions (count 10% of semester grade):**
In-class discussions of ethical issues related both to classical mythology and to students’ own ethical responsibilities as students

**Test questions (four tests, totaling 80% of semester grade):**
One (out of 2-3) free response question requires ethical terminology and analysis; 10-20% of multiple choice questions involve ethics
Discussion board question on mythology:

Is is ethical to commit suicide, either for Ajax or in general?

As a dissent to the opinions of Emily, Brooke, and Caroline, I can agree that Ajax's suicide was tragic and uncalled for. [gives reasons why] However, I don't think suicide, that of Ajax included, is decidedly unethical.

First, Ajax fell upon his sword because he felt desperately ashamed and couldn't bear the thought of facing his father, his comrades, or his enemies with such shame. Because he wanted to protect his father's honor, we can assume that Ajax was not some heartless man who was unaware of his responsibility towards family....

Secondly, given that Ajax felt his presence was only a source of humiliation and shame, he truly felt that those he cared for would be better off without him, which is characteristic of suicides in general. The person doesn't do it simply out of selfishness...more often they do it because they see their life as something which holds others back, and so they do what they think is right: an example of virtue ethics (doing what you believe is right behavior, regardless of the actual consequences of said behavior).

In conclusion, suicide is always tragic, but it cannot always be labeled as unethical.
Discussion board question about students:

*Review question for test #2, on students’ own roles*

Please read the student honor code. How might this affect your individual actions? What are some effective ways for *individual students to foster a culture of honesty* in our classroom? in the university overall?

“If students that actually do the reading and show up to class [and] do not allow other students to copy their responses or use their clicker for them, *this sets the stage for academic integrity in the classroom*. In a way, *we put positive pressure on each other* to be honest and fulfill our role related responsibilities of being a student.

These behaviors contribute to the overall core purpose of the entire university, which is "to transform lives for the benefit of society". If students create this culture of honesty in individual classes such as ours, *students will carry these positive traits that they now possess (or are working towards possessing) into society after graduating* to better the community and society.”
Final exam ethics-related essay question

The challenges of leadership have featured prominently in our texts.

Which character that we have encountered has the most ethically challenging role-related responsibility conflict in which ONE of the roles relates to some kind of public leadership role?

Which dilemma encountered by some other character does this conflict most closely resemble, and why?

Your answer should:
- Perform a systematic ethical analysis of each dilemma
- Explain why the specific dilemma you have chosen as most difficult is the most difficult one involving a leadership responsibility
- Explain why that dilemma is similar to the second example you have chosen
- Point out any differences between the two examples
Journal entry prompt for final journal entry (due last week of class)

All of the journal entries in this course have asked you to apply ethics terminology not to ancient mythological stories, but to modern situations.

Please describe a situation you encountered this semester, in any area of your life, to which the ethics component of our course was applicable. If you did not find yourself in such a situation this fall, please describe a situation you are likely to encounter in the future to which you think our ethics work would be applicable.