ETHICS IN SOCIETY
PROGRAM

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The Program in Ethics in Society is designed to foster scholarship, teaching, and moral reflection on fundamental issues in personal and public life. The program is grounded in moral and political philosophy, but it extends its concerns across a broad range of traditional disciplinary domains. The program is guided by the idea that ethical thought has application to current social questions and conflicts, and it seeks to encourage moral reflection and practice in areas such as business, international relations, law, medicine, politics, science and public service.

Along with the McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society, the program also sponsors several annual public lecture series, including the Tanner Lectures in Human Values and the Wesson Lectures in Problems of Democracy.

Students interested in pursuing studies that bring moral and political theory to bear on issues in public life should consult the director. There are many course offerings at Stanford that address moral and political questions. Not all of these courses are crosslisted with the Program in Ethics in Society. Students should consult the director to determine whether such courses may be applied towards an Ethics in Society honors program or minor.

GRADUATE OFFERINGS

The program’s main provisions for graduate students are seminars on topics in applied ethics.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN ETHICS IN SOCIETY

HONORS IN ETHICS IN SOCIETY

The honors program in Ethics in Society is open to majors in every field and must be taken in addition to a department major. Students should apply for entry at the end of Spring Quarter of the sophomore year or no later than the beginning of Autumn Quarter of the junior year. Applicants should have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 (B+) or higher. They should also maintain this minimum average in the courses taken to satisfy the requirements. Required courses must be taken for a letter grade.

Requirements—

Required courses (at least one of a or b must be taken at the 100 level);

a. ETHICSOC 20. Introduction to Moral Theory; or
b. ETHICSOC 170. Ethical Theory. Normally taken by the end of the sophomore year.

1. Two 4- or 5-unit undergraduate courses* on a subject approved by the honors adviser, designed to encourage students to explore those issues in Ethics in Society that are of particular interest to them. Courses of relevance to the Program in Ethics in Society are offered by members of the steering committee and by other departments. Students may also take a course with the honors thesis in mind. To promote a broad interdisciplinary approach, this elective should normally be outside the Department of Philosophy. Students are not restricted to choosing from the cognate courses listed below.

2. ETHICSOC 190. Honors Seminar.

3. ETHICSOC 200A,B. Honors Thesis. On a subject approved by the honors adviser, with the work spread over two quarters. To receive honors in Ethics in Society, students must receive a grade of ’B’ on their thesis.

* The following courses may be used to fulfill requirement 2.

The honors adviser can approve additional courses.

ANTHRO 90A. History of Archaeological Thought
ANTHRO 90B. Theory of Cultural and Social Anthropology
ANTHRO 179. Cultures of Disease: Cancer
ANTHRO 326B. Conduct and Misconduct in Science
ARCHLGY 103. History of Archaeological Thought
COMM 131. Media Ethics and Responsibilities
COMM 236G. Democracy, Justice, and Deliberation
COMM 238. Democratic Theory: Normative and Empirical Issues
ECON 224. Science, Technology, and Economic Growth
EDUC 137X. Social Justice in Education
EDUC 158. Children’s Citizenship: Justice Across Generations
EDUC 167. Educating for Equity and Democracy
EDUC 179B. Youth Empowerment and Civic Engagement
EDUC 220C. Education and Society
EDUC 237X. Social Justice in Education
EDUC 247. Moral Education
EDUC 279B. Youth Empowerment and Civic Engagement
EDUC 304. The Philosophical and Educational Thought of John Dewey

OIT 333. Entrepreneurial Design for Extreme Affordability
HISTORY 236. The Ethics of Imperialism
HISTORY 243G. Tobacco and Health in World History
HISTORY 259A,B. Poverty and Homelessness in America I,II
HUMBIO 122S. Social Class, Race, Ethnicity, Health
INTNLREL 136R. Introduction to Global Justice
ME 206A. Entrepreneurial Design for Extreme Affordability
MED 83Q. Ethical Issues in Stem Cell Research
MED & E 197. Ethics and Public Policy (Same as PUBLPOL 103B.)
PHI 174/274. Freedom and the Practical Standpoint
PHIL 242. The Philosophical and Educational Thought of John Dewey
PHIL 338. Hobbes and Rousseau (Same as POLISCI 338J)

POLISCI 1. Introduction to International Relations
POLISCI 123. Politics and Public Policy (Same as PUBLPOL 101.)
POLISCI 130B. History of Political Thought II: Early Modern
PoLITICAL Thought, 1500-1700
POLISCI 130C. History of Political Thought III: Freedom, Reason, and Power
POLISCI 131. Children’s Citizenship: Justice Across Generations
POLISCI 132. Ethics of Political Animals
POLISCI 136R. Introduction to Global Justice
POLISCI 231S. Contemporary Theories of Justice
MINORS IN ETHICS IN SOCIETY

The Ethics in Society minor is open to students in any department who wish to explore moral issues in personal and public life. The minor also includes the possibility of pursuing classes around the theme of citizenship.

Students must declare the minor in Axess no later than the last day of Autumn Quarter of their senior year, although they are strongly advised to declare sooner. The student should discuss the minor with an adviser chosen from the Ethics in Society faculty list, and prepare a draft proposal that includes a list of courses planned to fulfill the requirements and the name of the faculty adviser.

A minor in Ethics in Society requires six courses for a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 30 units. Required courses must be taken for a letter grade.

Requirements—
Two Ethics in Society courses:

- ETHICSOC 20, Introduction to Moral Theory; or
- ETHICSOC 170, Ethical Theory
- ETHICSOC 30, Introduction to Political Philosophy; or
- ETHICSOC 171, Justice

Three courses at the 100 level or above that address some dimension of moral or political theory or practice.*

One course at the 200 level or above that addresses a moral or political problem, in either theory or practice.*

* See the course list in the “Honors in Ethics and Society” section of this bulletin for courses that fulfill requirements 2 and 3. The program director can approve additional courses.

Citizenship Option

The citizenship option for the minor introduces students to the theory, history, and practice of citizenship in democracies. When a student declares the minor in EIS in Axess, no notation is made of the citizenship option, and this notation does not appear on transcripts or the diploma. All students taking the citizenship option must take ETHICSOC 198, Community Engagement Internship. In addition to the courses listed in (1) above, students must take a total of three additional classes from two of the following categories. Students may petition to have other relevant courses counted towards the minor.

Citizenship and Government Action

- ETHICSOC 133, Ethics and Politics of Public Service
- POLisci 142T, Social Protection Around the World
- PUBLPOL 101, Politics and Public Policy
- PUBLPOL 164, Comparative Public Policy

Citizenship and Entrepreneurship

- ETHICSOC 108, Ethics and the Professions
- ME 206A, Entrepreneurial Design to Extreme Affordability

ETHICS IN SOCIETY (ETHICSOC) COURSES

For information on the undergraduate minor and honors program in Ethics in Society, see the “Ethics in Society” section of this bulletin.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN ETHICS IN SOCIETY

ETHICSOC 20. Introduction to Moral Philosophy
(Same as PHIL 20.) What is the basis of moral judgment? What makes right actions right and wrong actions wrong? What makes a state of affairs good or worth promoting? What is it to have a good or virtuous character? Answers to classic questions in ethics through the works of traditional and contemporary authors. GER:DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas
5 units, Win (Schapiro, T)

ETHICSOC 30. Introduction to Political Philosophy
(Same as PHIL 30, POLisci 3, PUBLPOL 103A.) State authority, justice, liberty, and equality through major works in political philosophy. Topics include human nature and citizenship, the obligation to obey the law, democracy and economic inequality, equality of opportunity and affirmative action, religion, and politics. GER:DB-Hum, DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas
5 units, Spr (Hussain, N)

ETHICSOC 77. Methodology in Ethics: Translating Theory into Practice
(Same as PHIL 77.) Ideally, social policies are informed by ethical thought and reflection, but doing good in the world requires the active translation of moral theory and political philosophy into action. What kinds of empirical data are relevant to social decision making, and how should they be collected, evaluated, and integrated into normative analysis? What assumptions about human nature are in play? How should diverse cultural values be addressed? Case studies from biomedical science, business, and government.
4 units, not given this year

ETHICSOC 78. Medical Ethics
(Same as PHIL 78.) Introduction to moral reasoning and its application to problems in medicine: informed consent, the requirements and limits of respect for patients' autonomy, surrogate decision making, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, and abortion. GER:DB-Hum, DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas
4 units, not given this year

ETHICSOC 133. Ethics and Politics of Public Service
(Same as POLisci 133.) Ethical and political questions in public service work, including volunteering, service learning, humanitarian assistance, and public service professions such as medicine and teaching. Motives and outcomes in service work. Connections between service work and justice, Is mandatory service an oxymoron? History of public service in the U.S. Issues in
crosscultural service work. Integration with the Haas Center for Public Service to connect service activities and public service aspirations with academic experiences at Stanford. GER:DB-SocSci

ETHICSOC 136R. Introduction to Global Justice
(Same as INTNLREL 136R, POLISCI 136R, POLISCI 336.) Recent work in political theory on the ethics of international relations. Topics include human rights, global economic justice, and the problem of global poverty.

5 units, Spr (Staff)

ETHICSOC 137R. Justice at Home and Abroad: Civil Rights in the 21st Century
(Same as EDUC 261X, POLISCI 137R, POLISCI 337R.) Focus is on theories of justice. How the core ideals of freedom, equality, and security animate theories which John Rawls considers the first virtue of social institutions. Topics include the U.S. Constitution as a legal framework for the operation of these ideals, civil rights legislation and litigation as the arena of tensions between those ideals, and how ideas of justice function both at home and abroad to impact civil liberties in today’s war on terror.

5 units, Aut (Reich, R; Steyer, J)

ETHICSOC 170. Ethical Theory
(Same as PHIL 170, PHIL 270.) Major strands in contemporary ethical theory. Readings include Bentham, Mill, Kant, and contemporary authors. GER:DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas

4-5 units, Aut (Schapiro, T)

ETHICSOC 171. Justice
(Same as IPS 208, PHIL 171, PHIL 271, POLISCI 136S, PUBLPOL 207.) Focus is on the ideal of a just society, and the place of liberty and equality in it, in light of contemporary theories of justice and political controversies. Topics include protecting religious liberty, financing schools and elections, regulating markets, assuring access to health care, and providing affirmative action and group rights. Issues of global justice including human rights and global inequality. GER:DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas

4-5 units, Aut (Cohen, J)

ETHICSOC 174A. Moral Limits of the Market
(Same as PHIL 174A, PHIL 274A.) Morally controversial uses of markets and market reasoning in areas such as organ sales, procreation, education, and child labor. Would a market for organ donation make saving lives more efficient; if it did, would it thereby be justified? Should a nation be permitted to buy the right to pollute? Readings include Walzer, Arrow, Rawls, Sen, Frey, Tittmuss, and empirical cases. GER:DB-Hum

4 units, Win (Satz, D)

ETHICSOC 179M. Libertarianism, Egalitarianism, and Public Policy
Evaluation of libertarian arguments about public policy, rights of ownership and rights of liberty such as: whether it is unjust to tax some persons’ market incomes in order to provide benefits for others; whether such taxation is a form of theft; whether such taxation is morally equivalent to forcing some persons to work for others; and whether the minimum wage is an unjust restriction of persons’ freedom to make mutually voluntary contracts. Readings include: Nozick, Milton Friedman, Hayek, and G.A. Cohen.

4 units, Win (Mchose, J)

ETHICSOC 181M. The Ethics of Risk
Why is it sometimes permissible to risk a harm when causing that same harm for certain would be wrong? Ethical issues involved in making decisions to act under conditions of risk and uncertainty. Topics include the nature of risk, the ethics of imposing risks on oneself and others, and the implications of different ethical views about risk for questions of public policy. Readings from philosophy, economics, law, and cognitive psychology.

4 units, Win (Staff)

ETHICSOC 185M. Contemporary Moral Problems
Moral problems faced by individuals and societies. Topics include global poverty, access to education, punishment, and abortion. Do affluent individuals have a duty to aid poor foreigners? How might such a duty depend on whether others are doing their share? Can people harm others through inaction? Should society punish successful crimes more severely than failed attempts? Contemporary philosophical writings including Feinberg, Thomson, Unger, Wolff.

4 units, Aut (Staff)

ETHICSOC 190. Ethics in Society Honors Seminar
(Same as PHIL 178.) For students planning honors in Ethics in Society. Methods of research. Students present issues of public and personal morality; topics chosen with advice of instructor.

3 units, Win (Reich, R)

ETHICSOC 198. Community Engagement Internship
Restricted to Ethics in Society minors with the citizenship option. Opportunities for students to engage in community work via the Haas Center for Public Service. Students work with Haas Center staff to design an internship involving community-based research or supported by a Haas Center fellowship or community service work/study, or to serve for an academic year as a tutor in one of the Haas Center’s several K-12 programs in East Palo Alto. May be repeated for credit.

3-5 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff), Sum (Staff)

ETHICSOC 199. Independent Studies in Ethics in Society
May be repeated for credit.

1-15 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff), Sum (Staff)

ETHICSOC 200A. Ethics in Society Honors Thesis
Limited to Ethics in Society honors students, who must enroll once in A and once in B.

1-5 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff), Sum (Staff)

ETHICSOC 200B. Ethics in Society Honors Thesis
Limited to Ethics in Society honors students, who must enroll once in A and once in B.

1-5 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff), Sum (Staff)