

# PROGRAM IN ETHICS IN SOCIETY

*Directors:* Eamonn Callan (Education), Russell Hardin (Political Science)

*Steering Committee:* Christopher Bobonich (Philosophy), Arnold Eisen (Religious Studies), John Ferejohn (Political Science), Barbara Koenig (Center for Biomedical Ethics), Susan Okin (Political Science), Rob Reich (Political Science, on leave), Debra Satz (Philosophy, on leave), Bill Simon (Law), Allen Wood (Philosophy), Lee Yearley (Religious Studies)

*Affiliated Faculty:* Kenneth Arrow (Economics, emeritus), Barton Bernstein (History), Michael Bratman (Philosophy), Albert Camarillo (History), Nadeem Hussain (Philosophy), Agnieszka Jaworska (Philosophy, on leave), David Kennedy (History), Tamar Schapiro (Philosophy), David K. Stevenson (Pediatrics), Sylvia Yanagisako (Cultural and Social Anthropology)

*Lecturer:* Scotty McLennan (Dean of Religious Life)

*Acting Assistant Professor:* Manuel Vargas (Philosophy)

*Affiliated Lecturer:* Donald Barr (Human Biology)

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, and science.

Current and planned initiatives of the program include:

1. Supporting and fostering ethics research.
2. Supporting innovative teaching focusing on the ethical dimensions relevant to the different disciplines across the curriculum.
3. Establishing a yearly faculty-graduate seminar focusing on topics in ethics and public life.
4. Ethics at Noon, a weekly discussion by faculty, students, and staff of topics of ethical concern.

The program also sponsors several public lecture series, including the Wesson Lectures in Problems of Democracy and the Ethics in Society lecture series on a current social issue.

Students interested in pursuing studies that bring moral and political theory to bear on issues in public life should consult the director.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

### HONORS

The honors program in Ethics in Society is open to majors in every field and may be taken in addition to a department major. Students should apply for entry at the end of Spring Quarter of the sophomore year or at the beginning of the Autumn Quarter of the junior year. Applicants should have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 'B+' or higher. They should also maintain this minimum average in the courses taken to satisfy the requirements.

*Requirements—*

1. Required courses:
  - a) Philosophy 20, Introduction to Moral Theory, or Philosophy 170. This is normally taken in the sophomore year.
  - b) Philosophy 30, Introduction to Political Philosophy (same as Public Policy 103A), or Philosophy 171. This is normally taken in the sophomore year. At least one of (a) and (b) must be taken at the upper level.
  - c) Ethics in Society 77, The Ethics of Social Decisions (same as Philosophy 77). Ethics in Society honors students must enroll under Ethics in Society. This course is aimed primarily at the junior year and is taken upon admission to the honors program.

2. One 4- or 5-unit undergraduate course 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 program 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 sample of such courses included below.

3. Ethics in Society 190, Honors Seminar (same as Philosophy 178). Ethics in Society honors students must enroll under Ethics in Society.
4. Ethics in Society 200A,B, Honors Thesis, on a subject approved by the honors adviser, 8-10 units, with the work spread over two quarters.

A typical student takes Philosophy 20 or 170 and 30 or 171 in the sophomore year. Upon admission to the honors program as a junior, he or she takes Ethics in Society 190 in the Winter Quarter, Ethics in Society 77 in the Spring Quarter, and requirement 2 (the optional subject) at any time during the junior year, or possibly Autumn Quarter of the senior year. The honors thesis is normally written during the Autumn and Winter quarters of the senior year.

### MINOR

A minor in Ethics in Society (EIS) requires six courses for a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 30 units toward the minor.

1. Three Ethics in Society courses:
  - a) EIS 20, Introduction to Moral Theory (same as Philosophy 20) 5 units
  - b) EIS 30, Introduction to Political Philosophy (same as Philosophy 30, Political Science 51D, Public Policy 103A) 5 units.
  - c) EIS 77, The Ethics of Social Decisions (same as Philosophy 77) 4 units
2. Two courses at the 100-level or above and one course at the 200-level or above that bring the perspectives of moral and political theory to significant issues in public life. Focused around a central theme, e.g., biomedical ethics, ethics and economics, ethics and politics, or environmental ethics. The courses at the 100 and 200 level are normally taken after completion of Philosophy 20 and 30.

Subject to the approval of the Director of the Ethics in Society Program, a course covering similar subject matter in another department or program may be substituted for EIS 20 or 30. No course credited to the EIS minor may be double counted toward major requirements.

The Ethics in Society minor is open to students in any department who wish to enrich their studies through the exploration of moral issues in personal and public life. Students must complete their declaration of the minor no later than the last day of Autumn Quarter of their senior year, although they are strongly advised to declare sooner. The student should prepare a draft proposal that includes the title of your proposed minor and discuss the minor with a faculty advisor, selected from the Program in Ethics in Society Faculty list. The student should then submit their application to minor via the web through the Registrar's Office home page at <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/registrar>. Select "Records and Grades," then select "Declaring a Minor" and follow the instructions.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

In addition to the Ethics in Society Lecture Series, the program's main provision for graduate students is a seminar on a topic in applied ethics. Students present talks on normative themes of their own choosing, providing an opportunity for graduate students from different disciplines to interact in the process of deliberating over ethical matters of common interest.

## COURSES

### UNDERGRADUATE

For course information not listed, refer to the relevant department listings elsewhere in this bulletin. See the *Time Schedule* each quarter for any changes in listings.

**20. Introduction to Moral Philosophy**—(Enroll in Philosophy 20.) What is the basis of our moral judgments? What makes right actions right and wrong actions wrong? (Existing social rules? The consequences of human happiness? Conformity to a rule of reason?) What sort of person is it best to be? The answers to these classic questions about ethics are examined in the works of traditional and contemporary authors.

*5 units, Win (Perry)*

**30. Introduction to Political Philosophy/Theory**—(Enroll in Philosophy 30, Public Policy 103A.) Critical introduction to issues of state authority, justice, liberty, and equality. The issues are approached through major works in political philosophy. Topics: human nature and citizenship, the obligation to obey the law, democracy and economic inequality, equality of opportunity and affirmative action, religion and politics.

*5 units, Aut (Hussain)*

**77. The Ethics of Social Decisions: The Moral (In)Significance of Race**—(Same as Philosophy 77.) Examination of philosophical and practical issues concerning the political and moral significance of race. Emphasis is on how practice and theory can illuminate one another and how philosophical theories can speak to real world problems. Topics: affirmative action, the census, education, health care access, the military, and the prison system.

*3-5 units, Spr (Vargas)*

**101. Shifting Responsibilities for Education: 1870-1950**—(Same as Education 201C.) The shifting balance of responsibility for social, moral, vocational, and intellectual education from private to public institutions, emphasizing critical educational contexts: the family, school, religious, correctional, and social welfare.

*4 units, Win (Seyer)*

**108. Ethics and the Professions**—Introduction to ethical challenges facing professionals in society. Readings provide theoretical framework and case studies examine practical application. Students explore individual moral obligations as members of society in relation to obligations as professionals. Topics: conflict of interest, client/professional privilege, and use of confidential information. Focus is on medicine, law, engineering, and ethical issues common to all professions.

*4 units, Spr (McLennan)*

**109. Topics in Latin American Philosophy**—(Enroll in Philosophy 109.)

*3-5 units, Win (Vargas)*

**138. Ethics and Empire**—The ethical questions of U.S. foreign policy in Central America and the effects of globalization. Topics: counterinsurgency, violent and non-violent resistance to injustice; issues surrounding “just war” and “just revolution” theory; legalities of intervention; the realities and consequences of “maquilization” of Central American economies; and the ideological “sell” of intervention in the U.S. media.

*4 units, Win (Sheehan)*

**170. Ethical Theory**—(Enroll in Philosophy 170.)

*4 units, Win (Schapiro)*

**171. Political Philosophy**—(Enroll in Philosophy 171.) Liberalism and its critics. Individual and group rights. The ability of liberal political theory to respond to critics’ attacks on its methodological and psychological foundations and on its core values.

*4 units, given 2002-03*

**190. Ethics in Society Honors Seminar**—(Same as Philosophy 178.) Interdisciplinary. Students present issues of public and personal morality; topics are chosen with the advice of the instructor. Student-prepared reading list is made available a week prior to the presentation. Group discussion follows.

*3 units, Win (Satz)*

**200A,B. Honors Thesis**—Limited to Ethics in Society honors students.  
*8-10 units, any two quarters (Staff)*

## INTERDEPARTMENTAL OFFERINGS

**65. Introduction to Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity**—(Enroll in History 65.)

*5 units, Spr (Fredrickson)*

**78. Medical Ethics**—(Enroll in Philosophy 78.)

*4 units, not given 2001-02*

**100. Computers, Ethics, and Social Responsibility**—(Enroll in Computer Science 201.)

*4 units, Win (Roberts)*

**110. Ethics and Public Policy**—(Enroll in Science, Technology, and Society 110, Public Policy 103B.)

*5 units, Win (Jamieson)*

**140A,B,C Ethics of Development in a Global Environment (EDGE)**—(Enroll in Cultural and Social Anthropology 133A,B,C, Engineering 297A,B,C.)

*1-4 units, Aut, Win, Spr (Lusignan, Gupta)*

**143. Ethics in Economics Policy**—(Enroll in Economics 143.)

*5 units, Win (Hammond)*

**150. Economic Policy Analysis**—(Enroll in Economics 150, Public Policy 104.)

*5 units, Win (Noll)*

**151B. History of Political Thought II: The Origins of Modern Democracy**—(Enroll in Political Science 151B.)

*5 units, Win (Okin)*

**151C. History of Political Thought III: Inequality and Justice**—(Enroll in Political Science 151C.)

*5 units, Spr (Hardin)*

**156. Economics of Health and Medical Care**—(Enroll in Economics 156, Health Research and Policy 256, Biomedical Informatics 256.)

*5 units, Win (Bundorf)*

**158R. Children’s Citizenship: Justice across Generations**—(Enroll in Political Science 158R.)

*5 units (Reich) not given 2001-02*

**159R. Ethics and Politics in Public Policy**—(Enroll in Political Science 159R.)

*5 units (Reich) given 2002-03*

**160. Health Care in America**—(Enroll in Human Biology 160.)

*3 units, Aut (Barr)*

**167. Seminar: Gender, Development, and Women’s Human Rights in International Perspective**—(Enroll in Political Science 167.)

*5 units, Win (Okin)*

**172. History of Modern Ethical Theory**—(Enroll in Philosophy 172.)

*4 units, not given 2001-02*

**174. Bioethics and Anthropology**—(Enroll in Anthropological Sciences 174.)

*5 units (Koenig) not given 2001-02*

**177. Philosophical Issues Concerning Race and Racism**—(Enroll in Philosophy 177.)

*4 units, not given 2001-02*

**179. Individual and Communal Ethics**—(Enroll in Philosophy 179.)

*4 units, not given 2001-02*

**266. Seminar: Gender and Western Political Theory**—(Enroll in Political Science 266.)

*5 units (Okin) not given 2001-02*

**268. Seminar: Contemporary Theories of Justice**—(Enroll in Political Science 268.)

*5 units (Reich) given 2002-03*

**271. Graduate Seminar: Topics in Democratic Theory**—(Enroll in Philosophy 271.)

*3-5 units, not given 2001-02*

**275. Marx and Weber**—(Enroll in Philosophy 275.)

*3 units, not given 2001-02*

**317. Aristotle's Politics**—(Enroll in Philosophy 317.)

*3 units, Win (Bobonich)*

**320X. Social Justice in Education**—(Enroll in Education 320X.)

*3 units, Win (Callan)*

This file has been excerpted from the *Stanford Bulletin*, 2001-02, pages 377-379. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy; late changes (after print publication of the bulletin) may have been made here. Contact the editor of the *Stanford Bulletin* via email at [arod@stanford.edu](mailto:arod@stanford.edu) with changes, corrections, updates, etc.