

# PROGRAM IN ETHICS IN SOCIETY

*Directors:* Eamonn Callan (Education), Debra Satz (Philosophy)

*Steering Committee:* Arnold Eisen (Religious Studies), John Ferejohn (Political Science), Russell Hardin (Political Science), Barbara Koenig (Center for Biomedical Ethics), Scotty McLennan (Dean of Religious Life), Susan Okin (Political Science), Rob Reich (Political Science), Eric Roberts (Computer Science), Debra Satz (Philosophy, on leave Autumn), 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), David Kennedy (History), Tamar Schapiro (Philosophy), David K. Stevenson (Pediatrics), Sylvia Yanagisako (Cultural and Social Anthropology)

*Consulting Associate Professor:* Scotty McLennan (Dean of Religious Life)  
*Associate Professor (Teaching):* Donald Barr (Human Biology)

*Mail Code:* 94305-2155

*Department Phone:* (650) 723-0997

*Email:* benquest@stanford.edu, nsanchez@stanford.edu

*Web site:* <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/EIS>

Courses given in Ethics in Society have the subject code ETHICSOC. For a complete list of subject codes, see Appendix B.

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 Tanner Lecture in Human Values, 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. There are many course offerings at Stanford that contain an ethical element. Not all of these courses are crosslisted with the Program in Ethics in Society. To inquire whether these courses can be applied towards the Ethics in Society honors or minor, please 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) ETHICSOC 20, Introduction to Moral Theory, or ETHICSOC 170. This is normally taken in the sophomore year.
  - b) ETHICSOC 30, Introduction to Political Philosophy, or ETHICSOC 171. This is normally taken in the sophomore year. At least one of (a) or (b) must be taken at the upper level.
  - c) ETHICSOC 77. 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. ETHICSOC 190, Honors Seminar.
4. ETHICSOC 200A,B, Honors Thesis, on a subject approved by the honors adviser, collectively 2-10 units, with the work spread over two quarters.

A typical student takes ETHICSOC 20 or 170 and 30 or 171 in the sophomore year. Upon admission to the honors program as a junior, he or she takes ETHICSOC 190 in the Winter Quarter, ETHICSOC 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 (ETHICSOC) requires six courses for a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 30 units toward the minor.

1. Three Ethics in Society courses:
  - a) ETHICSOC 20. Introduction to Moral Theory; 5 units
  - b) ETHICSOC 30. Introduction to Political Philosophy; 5 units
  - c) ETHICSOC 77. Encountering Culture in Theory and Practice; 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 ETHICSOC 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 ETHICSOC 20 or 30. No course credited to the ETHICSOC 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 adviser, 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 descriptions not listed, refer to the relevant department listings elsewhere in this bulletin. See the *Time Schedule* each quarter for any changes in listings. Additional courses with an ethical element are available at the program's web site or by consultation with the program administrator.

**ETHICSOC 20. Introduction to Moral Philosophy**—(Same as PHIL 20.) What is the basis of moral judgments? What makes right actions right, and wrong actions wrong? What makes a state of affairs good or worth promoting? What sort of person is it best to be? The answers to such classic questions in ethics are examined through the works of traditional and contemporary authors. GER:3b

*5 units, Win (Jaworska)*

**ETHICSOC 30. Introduction to Political Philosophy**—(Same as PHIL 30, PUBLPOL 103A.) Critical introduction to issues of state authority, justice, liberty, and equality, 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. GER:3b

*5 units, Aut (Hussain)*

**ETHICSOC 77. Encountering Culture in Theory and Practice**—(Same as PHIL 77.) How do cultures differ? In ethics, morality, or justice? What changes in outlook, if any, must people make to account for such differences? Goal is for students to encounter their own cultural views and those of others both in theory (works of philosophy and criticism) and in practice (a required service internship). Themes include definitions of culture, and proponents and opponents of liberal multiculturalism, cultural relativism, and critical race theory.

*3-5 units, Spr (Kelts)*

**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, physician-assisted suicide, and abortion. GER:3a,4c

*4 units, Win (Jaworska)*

**ETHICSOC 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)*

**ETHICSOC 118. Global Environmental Issues and Business**—Business as the solution to environmental problems in developed countries and developing countries. How companies can gain competitive advantage by developing environmentally benign strategies.

*4 units, Win (Arora)*

**ETHICSOC 121. An Introduction to the Austrian School of Economics**—The methodological, conceptual, and ethical foundations of the Austrian School of Economics. The leading thinkers, their main ideas, and how their insights led to legal, ethical, and economic ideals that

continue to shape our culture. Emphasis is on the main trains of thought that mutually influenced the legal framework, the economic actions, and the ethics of men: the labor theory of value and the theory of subjective value. The impact of the *Methodenstreit* on the relationships among concepts of justice and freedom, ethics, markets, and public and private goods.

*4 units, Win (Leube)*

**ETHICSOC 131. Children's Citizenship: Justice Across Generations**—(Same as POLISCI 131.) The notion of children's citizenship, focusing on the major social institutions that assume responsibility for the civic education of children: schools, families and communities, and civil society. How does each institution develop citizenship? What is the relationship between civic education in its current forms and the reproduction of social equality and/or inequality? Do children's rights as citizens differ from the rights of adult citizens? Readings: political theorists on justice, feminist theorists on the family and children, court cases on the tensions between the state's and communities' interests in education, and social critics on the practice of civic education.

*5 units, Aut (Reich)*

**ETHICSOC 133. Ethics and Politics in Public Service**—(Same as POLISCI 133.) Provides the basis for a connection between an undergraduate's service activities and his or her academic experiences at Stanford; especially for freshmen and sophomores who participate or intend to participate in service activities through the Haas Center or register for courses with service learning components. What does it mean to do public service? Why should or should not citizens do volunteer work? Is public service by definition a good thing? The history, hazards, responsibilities, and dilemmas of doing public service. A historical context of public service work in the U.S., introducing the range of ethical concerns involved with service.

*5 units, Spr (Reich)*

**ETHICSOC 170. Ethical Theory**—(Same as PHIL 170.) What kind of conduct does morality demand? Why are people subject to moral demands at all? Answering these questions through two influential approaches to ethics: Bentham and Mill on utilitarianism and Kant's moral theory. Emphasis is on the structure of each theory: how each defines and organizes ideas of right and wrong, good and bad, virtue and vice, obligation and freedom.

*4 units, Aut (Schapiro)*

**ETHICSOC 171. Political Philosophy**—(Same as PHIL 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, Win (Satz)*

**ETHICSOC 190. Ethics in Society Honors Seminar**—(Same as PHIL 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.

*3 units, Win (Okin)*

**ETHICSOC 200A,B. Ethics in Society Honors Thesis**—Limited to Ethics in Society honors students.

*1-5 units, any two quarters (Staff)*

## INTERDEPARTMENTAL OFFERINGS

### CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

**CEE 137. Architectural Design of Individual Buildings: Ethics, Community, Service, and Social Responsibility**

*4 units, Spr (Jann, Nieh)*

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

**CS 201. Computers, Ethics, and Social Responsibility**

*3-4 units, Spr (Johnson)*

## CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

**CASA 160/260. McCarthyism: History, Gender, and the Politics of Democracy**

*5 units, Win (Jain)*

## ECONOMICS

**ECON 143. Ethics in Economics Policy**

*5 units, Win (Hammond)*

**ECON 150. Economic Policy**

*5 units, Win (Cogan)*

**ECON 156/256. Economics of Health and Medical Care**

*5 units, Aut (Bhattacharya)*

## EDUCATION

**EDUC 201C. Shifting Responsibility and Contested Authority in Education**

*4-5 units, Spr (Seyer)*

## ENGINEERING

**ENGR 297A,B,C. Ethics of Development in a Global Environment**

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

## HISTORY

**HISTORY 65. Introduction to Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity**

*5 units (Staff) not given 2002-03*

## PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 172. History of Modern Ethical Theory**

*4 units, alternate years, given 2003-04*

**PHIL 277. Topics in Democratic Theory**

*3-5 units, Spr (Ferejohn, Satz)*

**PHIL 278. Margins of Agency**

*3 units, Aut (Jaworska)*

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

**POLISCI 1. Introduction to International Relations**

*5 units, Aut (Tomz)*

**POLISCI 130B/330B. History of Political Thought II: The Origins of Modern Democracy**

*5 units, Win (Kelts)*

**POLISCI 130C/330C. History of Political Thought III: The Age of Revolutions**

*5 units, Spr (Kelts)*

**POLISCI 132R. Rousseau and His Times**

*5 units, Win (Okin)*

**POLISCI 138R. Liberty and the Law**

*5 units, Aut (Kelts)*

**POLISCI 138S. Ethics in Government**

*5 units, Win (Amado)*

**POLISCI 138T. Ecology and Political Theory**

*5 units, Spr (Shaw)*

**POLISCI 230R/330S. Gender, Development, and Women's Human Rights in International Perspective**

*5 units (Okin)*

**POLISCI 231S. Contemporary Theories of Justice**

*5 units, Aut (Amado)*

**POLISCI 234S. Morality and Law**

*5 units, Spr (Hardin)*

**POLISCI 331T. Politics, Ethics, and Leadership**

*5 units, Aut (Amado)*

## PUBLIC POLICY

**PUBLPOL 103B. Ethics and Public Policy**

*5 units, Win (McGinn)*

## SOCIOLOGY

**SOC 141A. Social Class, Race/Ethnicity, Health**

*3 units, Win (Barr)*

This file has been excerpted from the *Stanford Bulletin*, 2002-03, pages 376-378. Every effort has been made to insure 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 with changes, corrections, updates, etc.