

ETHICS IN SOCIETY PROGRAM

The Program in Ethics in Society consists of an interdisciplinary honors program and a minor that are open to undergraduates in all majors.

Mission of the Program in Ethics in Society

The Program in Ethics in Society, which operates under the umbrella of the Bowen H. McCoy Family Center for 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.

Ethics in Society Courses

Courses offered by the Program in Ethics in Society are listed under the subject code ETHICSOC on the Stanford Bulletin's ExploreCourses (<https://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?q=ETHICSOC&view=catalog&page=0&catalog=71&filter-term-Autumn=on&filter-term-Winter=on&filter-term-Spring=on&filter-term-Summer=on&filter-coursestatus-Active=on&collapse=&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on>) web site. There are many course offerings at Stanford that address moral and political questions, only some of which are crosslisted by the Program in Ethics in Society.

Honors in Ethics in Society

The Program in Ethics in Society offers undergraduates the opportunity to write a senior honors thesis within a community of interdisciplinary scholars. The course of study combines the analytical rigor of moral and political philosophy with the subject matter of each student's self-chosen major to develop a sophisticated understanding of problems of social concern. Such problems include: the nature and implications of treating people with equal dignity and respect; the scope of liberty; the legitimacy of government; and the meaning of responsibility. The program poses these issues and others in the context of debates which arise in our common public life. It thus extends moral concern and reflection across disciplines such as medicine, law, economics, political science, sociology, international relations, and public policy.

Students in the program write honors theses on topics which use moral and political philosophy to address practical problems. Previous theses have considered questions such as the just distribution of health care, obligations to future generations, the role of moral values in education, the moral implications of genetic engineering, and the relationship between gender inequality and the structures of work and family. Students in the program have won scholarships to graduate study including Marshall, Rhodes, and Fulbright fellowships. Others have taken the step from moral analysis to moral commitment, pursuing careers of public service.

The honors program in Ethics in Society is open to majors in every field and must be taken in addition to a department major. Applicants must declare a major before applying to the program. Applicants should have a grade of B+ or higher in all courses taken to fulfill program requirement. Required courses must be taken for a letter grade.

Students interested in pursuing honors in Ethics in Society can apply for early acceptance in June of their sophomore year or the regular deadline in mid November of their junior year. Students should contact the

program coordinator for more information and to begin the application process.

Requirements

		Units
Core Courses		
ETHICSOC 20	Introduction to Moral Philosophy	4-5
or ETHICSOC 170	Ethical Theory	
ETHICSOC 171	Justice	4-5
ETHICSOC 190	Ethics in Society Honors Seminar	3
Electives		
Two 4- or 5-unit undergraduate courses on a subject approved by the faculty director, designed to support research conducted for or connected to the honors thesis.		8-10
Thesis units spread across Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters		10
ETHICSOC 200/Ethics in Society Honors Thesis		
ETHICSOC 200B/Ethics in Society Honors Thesis		
ETHICSOC 200C/Ethics in Society Honors Thesis		

Thesis subject must be approved by the honors adviser and students must receive a grade of 'B+' or higher on their thesis to receive honors in Ethics in Society.

Typically, ETHICSOC 20 or ETHICSOC 170 and ETHICSOC 171 are completed before the Winter Quarter of the junior year. The Ethics in Society Honors Seminar (ETHICSOC 190) is offered only in Winter Quarter and should be taken in the junior year. Specialization courses can be completed at any time and courses taken prior to acceptance in the Program can be used to fulfill this requirement.

Students can elect to receive up to 10 units for writing their theses in their senior year in ETHICSOC 200A, ETHICSOC 200B, and ETHICSOC 200C. Up to 5 units may be taken in one quarter.

The honors thesis is written during Autumn and Winter quarters of the senior year and is generally due the first Monday in May. Students also complete preliminary and final thesis presentations in the senior year and an oral examination after submission of the thesis. To receive honors in Ethics in Society, students must fulfill all requirements, maintain an overall 3.3 GPA or demonstrate academic excellence, and receive a grade of 'B+' or higher on their thesis. Courses taken to fulfill the Ethics in Society honors requirements may be double-counted for any major. Exceptions to this must be approved by the faculty director.

Minor 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.

Students must declare the minor in Axess no later than the last day of Autumn Quarter of their senior year, although they are advised to declare sooner. The student should discuss the minor with an adviser and prepare a proposal that includes a list of courses planned to fulfill the requirements, theme of minor study, and the name of the faculty adviser. The faculty director approves this proposal. Students interested in pursuing a minor in Ethics in Society should contact the program coordinator for more information and to begin the planning process.

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

Requirements

		Units
ETHICSOC 20	Introduction to Moral Philosophy	4-5
or ETHICSOC 170	Ethical Theory	
ETHICSOC 171	Justice	4-5

Three courses at the 100-level or above that addresses some dimensions of moral or political problems, in either theory or practice, relating to theme of minor.

One course at the 200-level or above that addresses some dimensions of moral or political problems, in either theory or practice, relating to theme of minor.

The 100- and 200-level courses should be focused around a central theme such as biomedical ethics, ethics and economics, ethics and politics, or environmental ethics (or a theme approved by the faculty director). The courses at the 100 and 200 level are normally taken after completion of the core courses.

See the course list in the "Related Courses (p. 2)" section of this bulletin for approved 100- and 200-level courses taken by students in recent years. The faculty director may approve additional courses.

Courses credited to the Ethics in Society minor may not be double-counted toward major requirements.

Faculty Director: Brent Sockness

Affiliated Faculty: Kenneth Arrow (Economics, emeritus), Donald Barr (Pediatrics), Michael Bratman (Philosophy), Eamonn Callan (Education), Jorah Dannenberg (Philosophy), Barbara Fried (Law), Leah Gordon (Education), Nadeem Hussain (Philosophy), Allyson Hobbs (History), Pam Karlan (Law), Alison McQueen (Political Science), Benoit Monin (Psychology, Graduate School of Business), Josiah Ober (Classics, Political Science), Rob Reich (Political Science, Philosophy), Eric Roberts (Computer Science), Debra Satz (Philosophy), Tamar Schapiro (Philosophy), Brent Sockness (Religious Studies), David K. Stevenson (Pediatrics), Allen Wood (Philosophy, emeritus), Lee Yearley (Religious Studies)

Related Courses

This is a partial list of courses that have been counted as specialization courses (honors requirement) or 100- and 200-level courses (minor requirement) in recent years. Courses not on this list may be submitted to the faculty director for approval.

		Units
ANTHRO 90B	Theory of Cultural and Social Anthropology	5
ANTHRO 179	Cultures of Disease: Cancer and HIV/AIDS	5
ANTHRO 282	Medical Anthropology	4
ARTHIST 203	Greek Art In and Out of Context	5
COMM 131	Media Ethics and Responsibility	4-5
CS 181	Computers, Ethics, and Public Policy	4
ECON 118	Development Economics	5
EDUC 165/265	History of Higher Education in the U.S.	3-5
EDUC 201	History of Education in the United States	3-5
EDUC 220C	Education and Society	4-5
EDUC 247	Moral and Character Education	3
ETHICSOC 178M	Introduction to Environmental Ethics	4-5
HUMBIO 122S	Social Class, Race, Ethnicity, and Health	4
HUMBIO 129	Critical Issues in International Women's Health	4
HUMBIO 170	Justice, Policy, and Science	5
HUMBIO 172B	Children, Youth, and the Law	5
HUMBIO 174	Foundations of Bioethics	3
IPS 241	International Security in a Changing World	5
INTNLREL 140A	International Law and International Relations	5
MSE 254	The Ethical Analyst	1-3
PHIL 187	Philosophy of Action	4
PHIL 194T	Practical Reason	4

14-15	POLISCI 1	The Science of Politics	5
	POLISCI 122	Introduction to American Law	3-5
	POLISCI 123	Politics and Public Policy	4-5
	POLISCI 125P	The First Amendment: Freedom of Speech and Press	4-5
	POLISCI 226	Race and Racism in American Politics	5
	PUBLPOL 106	Law and Economics	4-5
	PUBLPOL 183	Philanthropy and Social Innovation	4
	SOC 135	Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy in the United States	3

Ethics in Society (ETHICSOC) courses given this year are listed here by quarter offered. Each quarter is linked to ExploreCourses where you can find times and locations.

Autumn Quarter

ExploreCourses: ETHICSOC courses offered Autumn Quarter (<https://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?q=ETHICSOC&view=catalog&page=0&academicYear=20152016&filter-term-Autumn=on&collapse=&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on&filter-coursestatus-Active=on&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on>)

		Units
ETHICSOC 171	Justice	4-5
ETHICSOC 201R	The Ethics of Storytelling: The Autobiographical Monologue in Theory, in Practice, and in the World	4
ETHICSOC 303R	Ethics, Economics and the Market	4
ETHICSOC 200A	Ethics in Society Honors Thesis	5

Winter Quarter

ExploreCourses: ETHICSOC courses offered Winter Quarter (<https://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?q=ETHICSOC&view=catalog&page=0&academicYear=20152016&filter-term-Winter=on&collapse=&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on&filter-coursestatus-Active=on&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on>)

		Units
ETHICSOC 20	Introduction to Moral Philosophy	5
ETHICSOC 136R	Introduction to Global Justice	4
ETHICSOC 170	Ethical Theory	4
ETHICSOC 185M	Contemporary Moral Problems	4-5
ETHICSOC 190	Ethics in Society Honors Seminar	3
ETHICSOC 202	EMOTIONS: MORALITY AND LAW	2
ETHICSOC 205R	JUST AND UNJUST WARS	2
ETHICSOC 233R	The Ethics of Religious Politics	5
ETHICSOC 304	Moral Minds: What Can Moral Psychology Tell Us About Ethics	2
ETHICSOC 200B	Ethics in Society Honors Thesis	5

Spring Quarter

ExploreCourses: ETHICSOC courses offered Spring Quarter (<https://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?q=ETHICSOC&view=catalog&page=0&academicYear=20152016&filter-term-Spring=on&collapse=&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on&filter-coursestatus-Active=on&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on>)

		Units
ETHICSOC 180M	Collective Action Problems: Ethics, Politics, & Culture	3-4
ETHICSOC 186M	Economic Justice: What Is Private Property, and What (if Anything) Justifies It?	4

ETHICSOC 232T	Theories of Civil Society, Philanthropy, and the Nonprofit Sector	5
ETHICSOC 234R	Ethics On the Edge: Business, Non-Profit Organizations, Government, and Individuals	3
ETHICSOC 280	Transitional Justice, Human Rights, and International Criminal Tribunals	3-5