

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, technology, 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&academicYear=&filter-term-Autumn=on&filter-term-Winter=on&filter-term-Spring=on&filter-term-Summer=on&collapse=&filter-departmentcode=ETHICSOC=on&filter-catalognumber=ETHICSOC=on&filter-coursestatus=Active=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 honors 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, computer science, 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 October 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 or ETHICSOC 170 Ethical Theory	4-5
ETHICSOC 171 Justice	4-5
ETHICSOC 190 Ethics in Society Honors Seminar	4
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	
ETHICSOC 200/Ethics in Society Honors Thesis	10
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 must 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 the program's faculty director and prepare a proposal that includes a list of courses planned to fulfill the requirements, theme of minor study, and the name of their faculty adviser (to be determined in consultation with the faculty director). The faculty director approves this proposal. Students interested in pursuing a minor in Ethics in Society should contact the program coordinator (pgoodman@stanford.edu) 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. All courses must be taken for a letter grade.

Requirements

	Units
Gateway Courses	

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

ETHICSOC Electives

Three ETHICSOC courses at the 100-level or above relating to theme of minor (12-15 units)

University-Wide Electives

One or two courses at the 100-level or above that address moral or political problems, in either theory or practice, relating to the student's chosen theme of the minor. These may be further ETHICSOC offerings OR courses with substantial ethical content taken in other departments of the university. The latter require approval of the program's faculty director. (3-5 units)

The electives selected by the student should be focused around a central theme such as environmental ethics, ethics and politics, ethics and economics, biomedical ethics, ethics and technology, or a theme approved by the faculty director. Ethical Reasoning courses (<https://ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/undergrad-grad/undergraduate-courses/ethical-reasoning-requirement>) that fit the student's thematic focus may be counted towards the minor. Electives are normally taken after completion of the Gateway Courses.

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

Faculty Director: Brent Sockness

Affiliated Faculty:

Eamonn Callan (Education), Jorah Dannenberg (Philosophy), Barbara Fried (Law), Pam Karlan (Law), Alison McQueen (Political Science), Benoît Monin (Psychology, Graduate School of Business), Josiah Ober (Classics, Political Science), Rob Reich (Political Science, Philosophy), Debra Satz (Philosophy), Brent Sockness (Religious Studies), Emilee Chapman (Political Science), Juliana Bidanure (Philosophy)

Related Courses

There are many courses taught across the University that treat moral, political, and social issues pertinent to the Ethics in Society Honors Program and Minor. With the introduction of the Ethical Reasoning "Way" the number of these courses is growing. For a listing of current courses that fulfill the Ethical Reasoning requirement, see ExploreCourses (<https://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?q=all%20courses&view=catalog&page=0&catalog=&filter-ger-WAYER=on&collapse=,5,&filter-coursestatus-Active=on&academicYear=>).

	Units
HUMBIO 174 Foundations of Bioethics	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=20162017&filter-term-Autumn=on&collapse=&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on&filter-coursestatus-Active=on&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on>)

	Units
ETHICSOC 171 Justice	4-5
ETHICSOC 200A Ethics in Society Honors Thesis	5

ETHICSOC 134R The Ethics of Elections	5
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Winter Quarter

ExploreCourses: ETHICSOC courses offered Winter Quarter (<https://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?q=ETHICSOC&view=catalog&page=0&academicYear=20162017&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 190 Ethics in Society Honors Seminar	4
ETHICSOC 200B Ethics in Society Honors Thesis	5
ETHICSOC 199 Independent Studies in Ethics in Society	1-15

Spring Quarter

ExploreCourses: ETHICSOC courses offered Spring Quarter (<https://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?q=ETHICSOC&view=catalog&page=0&academicYear=20162017&filter-term-Spring=on&collapse=&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on&filter-coursestatus-Active=on&filter-catalognumber-ETHICSOC=on>)

	Units
ETHICSOC 232T Theories and Practices 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
ETHICSOC 111 Leadership Challenges	4-5
ETHICSOC 131S Modern Political Thought: Machiavelli to Marx and Mill	5
ETHICSOC 133 Ethics and Politics of Public Service	3-5
ETHICSOC 170 Ethical Theory	4
ETHICSOC 181 Architecture, Space, and Politics	4-5
ETHICSOC 185M Contemporary Moral Problems	4-5
ETHICSOC 280 Transitional Justice, Human Rights, and International Criminal Tribunals	3-5
ETHICSOC 234R Ethics on the Edge: Business, Non-Profit Organizations, Government, and Individuals	3