**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-coursecoursestatus=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 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 such topics, employing 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 an overall GPA of B+ or higher. Required courses must be taken for a letter grade.

Students interested in pursuing honors in Ethics in Society can apply for early acceptance in spring of their sophomore year or apply at 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**

**Core Courses**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ETHICSOC 20</td>
<td>Introduction to Moral Philosophy</td>
<td>4-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ETHICSOC 170</td>
<td>Ethical Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETHICSOC 171</td>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>4-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETHICSOC 190</td>
<td>Ethics in Society Honors Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
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**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.

**Thesis units spread across Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters**

8-10

**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 advisor (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**

**Gateway Courses**

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<tr>
<td>ETHICSOC 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ETHICSOC 170</td>
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Community ethics courses include Introduction to Moral Philosophy (ETHICSOC 20), Contemporary Muslim Political Thought (ETHICSOC 103X), Modern Political Thought: Machiavelli to Marx and Mill (ETHICSOC 131X), The Ethics of Elections (ETHICSOC 134R), and Contemporary Moral Problems (ETHICSOC 196).

Affiliated Faculty:
- Eamonn Callan (Education), Josiah Ober (Classics, Political Science), Benoit Monin (Psychology, Graduate School of Business), Rob Reich (Political Science, Philosophy), Debra Satz (Philosophy), Brent Sockness (Religious Studies), Emilee Chapman (Political Science), Juliana Biddanur (Philosophy)

Related Courses
There are many courses taught across the University that treat moral, political, and social issues pertinent to the Ethics in Society 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&ger=WAYER=on&collapse=5&filter-coursestatus-Active=on&academicYear).