

PRACTICAL ETHICS

Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion (<https://cas.umw.edu/clpr/>)

Ethical questions arise in every area of human activity and in every academic major and field. Understanding and using ethical theory and concepts to inform practical issues (and vice versa) is valuable for professional and personal development in a complex and diverse world.

The Practical Ethics minor is designed to give students an understanding of the fundamental theories, concepts, and methodologies of ethics; to provide practice in identifying and analyzing contemporary moral issues; and to help students better comprehend how theory and practice inform one another. Students can study a number of ethical issues across many areas including the environment, medicine, law, business, technologies, and everyday life. Topics include reproductive technologies, euthanasia, the treatment of animals, informed consent, hate speech, pornography, the relation between ethics and law, the value of species and ecosystems, and sustainability.

Students who do research or internships in ethics for course credit in any major or field of study can apply for this credit to be used also toward the Practical Ethics minor. Examples might include courses not on the pre-approved list, URES, independent study, a senior thesis, or an internship.

Students are encouraged to seek service learning and guided research opportunities, both for credit or non-credit. The Practical Ethics minor will be of particular value to students going on to graduate and professional studies in law, business, medicine, and the environment, and to those pursuing careers in government or other forms of service in the community.

Minor Requirements

Eighteen (18) credit hours to include a minimum of three courses from the philosophical ethics offerings (Group I), and three additional courses from the remainder of Group I and/or from Group II. At least three of the total courses must be at the 300-400 level.

Students who do research or other work for credit in ethics in any major or field of study – e.g., through URES, independent study, or internship – may use those credits for the minor with approval by the coordinator of the Practical Ethics Minor. Students are encouraged to contact the Center for Community Engagement for potential service learning opportunities.

Group I

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 courses:		
PHIL 160	Introduction to Ethics	9
PHIL 225	Practical Ethics	
PHIL 226	Medical Ethics	
PHIL 330	Environmental Ethics	
PHIL 335	Ethical Theory	
PHIL 430	Seminar: Ethics, Environment, & Sustainability	
Total Credits		9

Group II

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 additional courses taken either from Group I above or from Group II below.		
ANTH 211	Race in Global Perspective	9-10
ANTH 212	Anthropology of Gender	
ANTH 365	Environment and Development Narratives: The Modern Myths of Nature and Progress	
BIOL 428	Conservation Biology	
BUAD 464	Business Ethics	
CPSC 302	Computer Ethics	
EDUC 303	Scientific Inquiry and Instructional Technology	
EDUC 420D	The Professional Teacher and Critical Issues in Education	
EESC 230	Global Environmental Problems	
EESC 326	Pollution Prevention Planning	
EESC 330	Environmental Regulations	
EESC 355	Icehouse-Greenhouse Earth	
GEOG 331	Race and Place in America	
GEOG 332	Migration Politics in a Globalizing World	
GEOG 337	The Nature of Cities	
GEOG 338	Geopolitics	
GEOG 339A	Development Studies	
HISP 208	Introduction to Conservation	
HIST 322	US Environmental History	
PHIL 100	Individual and Community	
PHIL 210	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 220	Introduction to Feminism	
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law I	
PHIL 325	Philosophy of Law II	
RELG 231	Special Studies in Religion	
RELG 298	Ethics of Religion and Violence	
SOCG 315A	Gender and Society	
SOCG 334	Medical Sociology	
SOCG 335	Global Perspectives on Health and Illness	
SOCG 354	Environmental Sociology	
WGST 101	Introduction to Women's Studies	
WGST 102	Perspectives in Sexuality	
Total Credits		9-10

Classics, Philosophy, and Religion Faculty

Laura H. Mentore, Chair
 Jason P. Matzke, Career and Pre-Law Advisor (Philosophy)
 Mary Beth Mathews, Career Advisor (Religion)

Professors

Mary Beth Mathews (Religion)
 Jason P. Matzke (Philosophy)
 Angela L. Pitts (Classics)

Associate Professors

Jennifer A. Barry (Religion)

Assistant Professors

Kalpesh Bhatt (Religion)

Senior Lecturer

Michael J. Reno (Philosophy)