Ethics and Public Policy

Chair, Department of Philosophy
- David Cunning

Codirectors, Ethics and Public Policy
- Richard Fumerton, Diane Jeske

Undergraduate major: ethics and public policy (B.A.)
Faculty: http://clas.uiowa.edu/ethics/steering-committee
Web site: http://clas.uiowa.edu/ethics/

Ethics and public policy is an interdisciplinary major that presents perspectives on intersecting issues that connect the study of philosophy, economics, law, political science, and sociology. All of these disciplines involve a focus on practical questions concerning how individuals ought to behave and how they ought to regulate the behavior of others.

For example, law exists in order to regulate human behavior, enforce human ideals, and resolve human conflict; most people agree that what society should do depends in part on the actual or potential consequences of its actions; and some of the most important consequences of actions and policies are economic. So it is folly to try to reason clearly about how to rectify injustice without thinking long and hard about the economic impact of one's plans. But law and social policy affect more than economics; they have a role in constructing the very fabric of society and the nature of the political state in which we want to live.

The major in ethics and public policy provides an ideal background for law school. The study of reasoning, an important component of the major, is useful in preparing for the LSAT, GMAT, and MCAT. The major also prepares students to bring a sophisticated, cross-disciplinary perspective to diverse fields such as government, urban and regional planning, social work, and business.

Students choose one field of specialization for the major and may find it easy to pursue a second major in another of the major's specialization fields, thus broadening their prospects for choosing graduate schools or beginning professional careers.

The Departments of Economics, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology collaborate to present the major in ethics and public policy; the major is administered by the Department of Philosophy.

Undergraduate Program of Study
- Major in ethics and public policy (Bachelor of Arts)

Bachelor of Arts
The Bachelor of Arts in ethics and public policy requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 37 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program.

The curriculum includes foundation courses and the work for one field of specialization.

The major in ethics and public policy requires the following course work.

FOUNDATION COURSES
Foundation courses introduce students to each of the disciplines that participate in the major: philosophy, economics, political science, and sociology. These courses provide students with the basic reasoning skills they will need for advanced study. The foundation courses also help students make an informed selection of their specialization field.

All students are required to take PHIL:1636 Principles of Reasoning: Argument and Debate or PHIL:2603 Introduction to Symbolic Logic in order to gain facility with abstract, formal reasoning.

Some courses may be listed in both a foundation area and a specialization field; students may use a course to fulfill only one requirement for the major.

Philosophy Foundation
Reasoning—one of these:
PHIL:1636 Principles of Reasoning: Argument and Debate 3 s.h.
PHIL:2603 Introduction to Symbolic Logic 3 s.h.

Value theory—one of these:
PHIL:1034 Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness 3 s.h.
PHIL:1401 Matters of Life and Death 3 s.h.
PHIL:2402 Introduction to Ethics 3 s.h.
PHIL:2432 Introduction to Political Philosophy 3 s.h.
PHIL:2435 Philosophy of Law 3 s.h.
PHIL:2436 The Nature of Evil 3 s.h.

Economics Foundation
This course:
ECON:1100 Principles of Microeconomics 4 s.h.

One of these:
ECON:3650 Policy Analysis 3 s.h.
ECON:3800 Law and Economics 3 s.h.

Political Science Foundation
Foundation—one of these:
POLI:1001 Introduction to Politics 3 s.h.
POLI:1100 Introduction to American Politics 3 s.h.
POLI:1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3 s.h.
POLI:3000 Understanding Political Research 3 s.h.

Policy course—one of these:
POLI:1501 Introduction to American Foreign Policy 3 s.h.
POLI:3111 American Public Policy 3 s.h.

Sociology Foundation
Theory—one of these:
SOC:1010 Introduction to Sociology 3-4 s.h.
SOC:1020 Social Problems 3-4 s.h.

Law and sociology—one of these:
SOC:1119 Policy Matters: Perspectives on Contemporary Problems 3 s.h.
SOC:1410 Introduction to Criminology 3 s.h.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1420</td>
<td>Law and Society</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1810</td>
<td>Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2325</td>
<td>Women, Crime, and Justice</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC:2426</td>
<td>Deviance and Control</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2430</td>
<td>Comparative Criminal Justice Systems</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2810</td>
<td>Social Inequality</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3510</td>
<td>Medical Sociology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Students select one of the following fields of specialization: philosophy, economics, political science, or sociology. Students must complete four courses in their field, selected from the appropriate list below.

Some courses may be listed in both a foundation area and a specialization field; students may use a course to fulfill only one requirement for the major.

**Philosophy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2402</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics</td>
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<td>PHIL:2432</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Philosophy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2435</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>PHIL:2436</td>
<td>The Nature of Evil</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL:3342</td>
<td>Multiculturalism and Toleration</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL:3430</td>
<td>Philosophy of Human Rights</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL:3604</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy of Science</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL:3633</td>
<td>Philosophy of History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL:4480</td>
<td>Analytic Ethics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>PHIL:4481</td>
<td>Issues in Philosophy of Law</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL:4482</td>
<td>History of Ethics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL:4485</td>
<td>Political Philosophy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL:4696</td>
<td>Philosophy of the Human Sciences</td>
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**Economics**

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<thead>
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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON:3100</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON:3345</td>
<td>Global Economics and Business</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON:3610</td>
<td>Development of Local and Regional Economies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:3620</td>
<td>Economic Growth and Development</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:3625</td>
<td>Environmental and Natural Resource Economics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:3640</td>
<td>Regional and Urban Economics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON:3650</td>
<td>Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON:3760</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON:3790</td>
<td>Antitrust Economics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:3800</td>
<td>Law and Economics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>ECON:4160</td>
<td>Public Sector Economics</td>
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**Political Science**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3101</td>
<td>American Constitutional Law and Politics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3102</td>
<td>The U.S. Congress</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3104</td>
<td>Immigration Politics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3105</td>
<td>Minority Representation in American Politics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3111</td>
<td>American Public Policy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3114</td>
<td>Women and Politics in the United States</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3116</td>
<td>The Presidency</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3118</td>
<td>Interest Groups</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3120</td>
<td>The Criminal Justice System</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3121</td>
<td>The Judicial Process</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3122</td>
<td>Public Choice</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>POLI:3204</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3400</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Economy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3401</td>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>POLI:3404</td>
<td>Public Policy Around the World</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>POLI:3406</td>
<td>Ethnic and Religious Conflict in the Muslim World</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>POLI:3410</td>
<td>Russian Foreign Policy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>POLI:3501</td>
<td>International Organization and World Order</td>
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<td>POLI:3503</td>
<td>Politics of Terrorism</td>
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<td>POLI:3504</td>
<td>Globalization</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>POLI:3505</td>
<td>Causes, Consequences, and Management of Civil War</td>
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<td>POLI:3506</td>
<td>Consequences of War</td>
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<td>POLI:3507</td>
<td>Women and Politics in Global Perspective</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>POLI:3508</td>
<td>Race in World Politics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>POLI:3509</td>
<td>International Courts: The Intersection of Law and Politics</td>
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<td>POLI:3510</td>
<td>State Failure in the Developing World</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3511</td>
<td>International Law</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3512</td>
<td>International Conflict</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3513</td>
<td>Politics of International Human Rights Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3516</td>
<td>The Politics of International Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3517</td>
<td>Global Justice</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3520</td>
<td>National Security Policy</td>
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**Sociology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3171</td>
<td>Drugs and Society</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3415</td>
<td>Global Criminology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3416</td>
<td>Race, Crime, and Justice</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3420</td>
<td>Juvenile Delinquency</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3437</td>
<td>American Crime</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3450</td>
<td>Criminal Legal System</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3520</td>
<td>Political Sociology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3525</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3650</td>
<td>Education, Schools, and Society</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3840</td>
<td>Community and Urban Sociology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3850</td>
<td>Economy and Society</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4400</td>
<td>Internship in Criminal Justice and Corrections</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4420</td>
<td>Criminal Punishment</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC:4440</td>
<td>Sociology of White-Collar Crime</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC:4450</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice: A Sociolegal Perspective</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4460</td>
<td>Sociology of Law</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4540</td>
<td>Political Sociology and Social Movements</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student-Designed Field

In rare circumstances, a student may be given permission to design his or her own specialization field. The student specifies four courses numbered 3000 and above or as considered advanced by the department offering the course. Courses should be interconnected and must suggest a coherent interest. The student-designed field may not duplicate any of the established specialization fields for the major. It also may not include a course that satisfies another requirement for the major.

Students interested in designing their own specialization field should speak with an advisor as early as possible. They must obtain approval from their advisor and from the steering committee of the major in ethics and public policy as soon as possible after they declare the major and before they complete the designated course work.

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

(Courses in the major are those required to complete the major.)

Before the third semester begins: at least one course in the major
Before the fifth semester begins: at least three courses in the major
Before the seventh semester begins: at least seven courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree
Before the eighth semester begins: at least nine courses in the major
During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in ethics and public policy have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Honors students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 3.50 in work for the major and a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.50. In order to graduate with honors in the major, they must complete all work for the major and write an acceptable honors thesis on a significant topic related to the major. Students who write their honors thesis in philosophy should consider preparing for the thesis by taking PHIL:3950 Readings in Philosophy; students who write in economics should consider taking ECON:3999 Honors Seminar; students who write in political science should take POLI:4000 Honors Seminar on the Study of Politics; and students who write in sociology should consider taking SOC:4997 Honors Seminar. Contact the coordinator of the Ethics and Public Policy Program for more information.

In addition to honors in their majors, undergraduate students have a variety of opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program; visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.