

# 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 |          |
| <b>Total Credits</b> |  | <b>9</b> |

### 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   |             |
| <b>Total Credits</b>  |   | <b>9-10</b> |

## 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 Professor

Jennifer A. Barry (Religion)

**Assistant Professor**

Kalpesh Bhatt (Religion)

**Senior Lecturer**

Michael J. Reno (Philosophy)