



EKU Department of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies

Minor in Applied Ethics

“Studying ethics will improve your ability to engage in difficult moral dialogue with people who have different perspectives from you. It will help you live consistently with your values and think reflectively about those values as you learn more about the world and your place in it....(T)here are also practical reasons to study ethics. Studies show that people who study ethics have a significant advantage in the workplace—one of many career-oriented reasons to consider making the study of ethics a part of your collegiate life.” – *The Prindle Institute of Ethics*

The Minor in Applied Ethics at Eastern Kentucky University is designed to fit well with any major or program of study on campus. Each student is provided with a foundation in ethical theory and critical thinking. Students also have the opportunity to take upper-level courses in a variety of areas of practical ethics, including animal ethics, environmental ethics, medical ethics, and values and technology. Students conclude the minor by completing a capstone project focusing on ethical issues in their chosen field of study.

Curriculum Requirements

Minor in Applied Ethics

Total Curriculum Requirements 18-19 hours

PHI 101 or PHI 101R(4); PHI 130 or 130S; PHI 360; six hours from PHI 362, 381, 383 or 383W, or 385; and three hours from one of the following: PHI 349, PHI 388, 490, or a course outside the department with the approval of the department chair.

Course Descriptions

PHI 101 Logic and Critical Reasoning. (3) A. Prerequisite: ACT scores: Math 19 or higher; Reading 20 or higher; and English 18 or higher or ENG 101 or 101R(C) or minimum placement test score]. Introductory course in the analysis and evaluation of arguments, with a primary focus on deductive validity and the systems of categorical and propositional logic. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for PHI 101R. Gen. Ed. E-2.

PHI 101R Logic and Critical Reasoning (Supported). (4) A. Prerequisite: ACT scores: Reading 20 or higher; and English 18 or higher or ENG 101 or 101R(C) or minimum placement test score]. Introductory course in the analysis and evaluation of arguments, with a primary focus on deductive validity and the systems of categorical and propositional logic. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for PHI 101. Gen. Ed. E-2.

PHI 130 Beginning Ethics. (3) I, II. Survey of theories concerning the nature of right and wrong, emphasizing how these theories can be applied to personal moral choices. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for PHI 130S. Gen. Ed. E-3B [AH].

PHI 130S Beginning Ethics. (3) I, II. Survey of theories concerning the nature of right and wrong, emphasizing how these theories can be applied to personal moral choices, enhanced with a service learning component. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for PHI 130. Gen. Ed. E-3B [AH].

PHI 360 Ethical Theory and Practice. (3) A. Prerequisite: ENG 102 or 102R, 105(B), or HON 102; PHI 110 or 130. An advanced course in ethics that examines the intersection of ethical theory and practical ethics. Topics include major ethical theories, the nature and aims of applied ethics, and critical and creative thinking in ethical problem-solving.

PHI 362 Technology and Values. (3) A. An examination of philosophical issues related to science, technology, public health, economics, and the environment, with special attention being given to the personal and social ethical issues that arise in these contexts.

PHI 381 Animal Ethics (3) A. An examination of major theories of animal welfare and rights; consideration of issues involving the use of animals as food and other goods, animal experimentation, wildlife, endangered species, hunting, animals and sport, pets, and zookeeping.

PHI 383W Health and Biomedical Ethics. (3) A. Prerequisite: ENG 102 or 102R or 105(B) or HON 102. An examination of the value-issues which surround problems that arise in health-related fields and whose resolution calls for moral judgments. Typical problems would include: euthanasia, experimentation with humans, behavior control, genetic engineering, and distribution of health care facilities. Credit will not be awarded for both PHI 383 and PHI 383W.

PHI 385 Environmental Ethics. (3) A. Prerequisite: ENG 102 or 102R or 105 (B) or HON 102. An examination of historical and contemporary views of the values and rights of nature. Possible topics include animal rights, conservationism, the land ethic, stewardship, deep ecology, ecofeminism, and indigenous approaches to the environment. Credit will not be awarded for both PHI 385 and ENV 385.

PHI 349 Applied Learning in Philosophy. (.5-8) A. Prerequisite: consult with department chair before enrolling. Work in placements related to academic studies. One to eight hours credit per semester or summer. Total hours: eight, associate; sixteen, baccalaureate. A minimum of 80 hours employment required for each semester hour credit.

PHI 388 Special Topics in Ethics. (1-3) A. An examination of ethical theories, of major ethical thinkers, or of an applied ethical field like business ethics or environmental ethics. May be retaken to a maximum of fifteen hours if the topic is different.

PHI 490 Independent Work in Philosophy. (1-3) I, II. Prerequisite: consult with department chair before enrolling. Individual research and reading on a specified philosophical problem chosen by the student and instructor. Students must have the independent study proposal form approved by faculty supervisor and department chair prior to enrollment. May be retaken to a maximum of six hours if topic is different.

For more information contact the department at 859-622-1287 or visit <http://www.philosophy.eku.edu>