



University Council

October 2, 2020

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2020-2021

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Graduate Student Representative – Gerena Walker

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences for a new minor in Law, Ethics, and Philosophy will be an agenda item for the October 9, 2020, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

## PROPOSAL FOR MINOR PROGRAM OF STUDY

**School/College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department/Division:** Department of Philosophy

**Proposed Program:** Minor in Law, Ethics, and Philosophy

**Proposed Starting Date for Program:** Fall Semester 2021

**CIP:** 38010401

**Program Description:** The minor in Law, Ethics, and Philosophy is designed to provide University of Georgia students with the opportunity to achieve a deeper understanding of legal and ethical modes of thinking, as well as to increase their familiarity with the philosophical concepts and arguments used in these fields. The minor should enhance students' ability to think and argue in a manner that will benefit them in a variety of careers and areas of post-graduate study. It will also assist them in developing their analytical and critical thinking skills, with special emphasis on legal and moral reasoning.

The minor includes two required courses plus a choice of three electives from ten courses, all of which promote the skills mentioned in the previous paragraph. These courses, which constitute a cohesive set, cover the fundamental principles and the historical development of ethical and legal thought along with an introduction to relevant areas in philosophy. It will provide students both the epistemic background and the analytical tools to address some of the most critical contemporary issues in law and ethics.

The minor requires completion of 15 credit hours. All upper-level (3000-level and above) courses must be taken at the University of Georgia. Only PHIL 2030, Introduction to Ethics, may be transferred from another institution. Students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 to earn the minor.

### **Required Courses (6 hours):**

**PHIL 2030, Introduction to Ethics (3 hours)** - This course will familiarize students with the foundational concepts in ethics and thus provide a solid basis for courses that they will subsequently take as part of their completion of the minor.

**PHIL 4240/6240, Philosophy of Law (3 hours)** - The nature and function of law, with emphasis on the interpretation and application of law in the judicial process. Readings in classical and contemporary schools of the philosophy of law.

### **Elective Courses (9 hours) - Choose three of the following courses:**

**PHIL 3200, Ethical Theory (3 hours)** - The nature and justification of fundamental ethical concepts and moral principles.

**PHIL 3210, Feminist Philosophy (3 hours)** - Philosophical investigation and evaluation of feminist philosophy, examining such approaches as liberal feminism, socialist feminism, radical feminism, ecofeminism, and other feminist approaches.

**PHIL 3220, Biomedical Ethics (3 hours)** - Ethical and philosophical issues that arise in the context of medicine and bioresearch. Many ethical issues arise in health care contexts. This course will introduce students to some important problems in this area, and will help them to develop a framework for their resolution.

**PHIL 3230, Ethics of Food (3 hours)** - Introduces students to an array of ethical issues regarding contemporary food production, marketing, distribution, access, regulation, and consumption. Students will consider the ethical significance of individual food choices, as well as food policy decisions.

**PHIL 3610, Theory of Knowledge (3 hours)** - Basic problems and issues in the theory of knowledge, such as: What is truth? Can we acquire knowledge independently of experience? How can we justify our beliefs? Are inductive generalizations justified?

**PHIL 4210/6210, Social and Political Philosophy (3 hours)** - The nature and function of society and the state, human freedom and rights, and the bases of social and political obligations.

**PHIL(EETH) 4220/6220, Environmental Ethics (3 hours)** - Major professional and nonprofessional writings in the field of environmental ethics.

**PHIL 4700/6700, Philosophy and Race (3 hours)** - An exploration of several topics related to philosophy and race: race and racism in the history of Western philosophy; contemporary and historical meanings and understandings of racial categorization; challenges to white supremacist philosophical paradigms; and the significance of matters of race for philosophical investigations concerning identity, politics, ethics, and religion.

**JURI 3233/JURI 3233E, Foundations of American Law (3 hours)** - An introduction to legal reasoning, fundamental law and policy argumentative tools, the various types of legal institutions, the administrative state, and the interpretation of statutes and the Constitution. Foundational study will lead to legally sophisticated analyses and discussions concerning recently argued or decided Supreme Court cases.

**OR**

**JURI XXXX, Law, Justice, and the State<sup>1</sup> (3 hours) (Proposed)** - JURI XXXX is a survey of how law, legal institutions, and their relationship to culture, society, and politics can be examined and understood. It will introduce students to the way lawyers, historians, philosophers, political scientists, sociologists, and others evaluate the relationship between the law and legal institutions, justice, the state, and democracy, then help them understand how those relationships have shaped, and been shaped by, social, cultural, economic, and political ideas and institutions.

<sup>1</sup> If this course is not approved, the only JURI option will be JURI 3233/JURI 3233E.

## Approvals on File

**Proposal:** Minor in Law, Ethics, and Philosophy

**College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department:** Philosophy

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2021

Department:

- Philosophy Department Head, Dr. Aaron Meskin, 9/18/20

School/College:

- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, 9/16/20