ETHICS, POLITICS, & ECONOMICS (EP&E)


EP&E 204A / ENAS 335A, Professional Ethics  Mercedes Carreras  A theoretical and case-oriented approach to ethical decision making. Concepts, tools, and methods for constructing and justifying solutions to moral problems that students may face as professionals.  SO


* EP&E 215A or b, Classics of Ethics, Politics, and Economics  Staff  A critical examination of classic and contemporary works that treat problems of ethics, politics, and economics as unities. Topics include changing conceptions of private and public spheres, the content and domain of individual freedom, and ethical and political limits to the market. Readings from the works of Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Smith, Bentham, Mill, Hegel, Marx, Hayek, Rawls, and others.  HU, SO


EP&E 231B / GLBL 180B / PLSC 346B, Game Theory and International Relations  Alex Debs  Introduction to game theory and its applications in political science and economics, with a focus on international relations. Standard solution concepts in game theory; case studies from important episodes in the history of international relations, including World War II, the Cuban missile crisis, and the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Recommended preparation: introductory microeconomics.  QR, SO

* EP&E 233A / PHIL 457A / PLSC 283A, Recent Work on Justice  Thomas Pogge  In-depth study of one contemporary book, author, or debate in political philosophy, political theory, or normative economics. Focus varies from year to year based on student interest and may include a ground-breaking new book, the life's work of a prominent author, or an important theme in contemporary political thought.  HU

* EP&E 241A / PLSC 415A / SOCY 172A, Religion and Politics in the World  Katharine Baldwin  A broad overview of the relationship between religion and politics around the world, especially Christianity and Islam. Religions are considered to constitute not just theologies but also sets of institutions, networks, interests, and sub-cultures. The course's principal aim is to understand how religion affects politics as an empirical matter, rather than to explore moral dimensions of this relationship.  SO

* EP&E 242B / PLSC 372B, Politics and Markets  Peter Swenson  Examination of the interplay between market and political processes in different substantive realms, time periods, and countries. Inquiry into the developmental relationship between capitalism and democracy and the functional relationships between the two. Investigation of the politics of regulation in areas such as property rights, social security, international finance, and product, labor, and service markets. Topics include the economic motives of interest groups and coalitions in the political process.  SO

* EP&E 243A / GLBL 336A / LAST 423A / PLSC 423A, Political Economy of Poverty Alleviation  Ana De La O  Overview of classic and contemporary approaches to the question of why some countries have done better than others at reducing poverty. Emphasis on the role of politics.  SO

* EP&E 244B / ECON 449B / PLSC 374B, The Economic Analysis of Conflict  Gerard Padro  Introduction to the microeconomic analysis of internal conflict. In particular, how conflict imposes economic costs on the population and how people react to conflict. Topics include the correlates of war; the economic legacies of conflict on human capital, local institutions, households’ income, and firm performance; and the causes and impacts of forced displacement. Prerequisites: Intermediate microeconomics and econometrics.  SO

* EP&E 248B / PLSC 256B, American Political Institutions  Michael Fotos  The origins and development of American political institutions, especially in relation to how institutions shape the policy process. Issues of temporality, policy feedback, and policy substance.  WR, SO

* EP&E 250A / PLSC 354A, The European Union  David Cameron  Origins and development of the European Community and Union over the past fifty years; ways in which the often-conflicting ambitions of its member states have shaped the EU; relations between member states and the EU’s supranational institutions and politics; and economic, political, and geopolitical challenges.  SO

* EP&E 253B / PLSC 398B, Comparative Political Economy  Frances McCall Rosenbluth  Introduction to issues in political economy across time and place. The field’s diverse theoretical underpinnings and its place in the context of political science and of the social sciences more generally; theoretical perspectives such as materialism, institutionalism, and cognition/
culture/beliefs; interactions between government and the economy in democratic and nondemocratic regimes and in developed and developing countries. Enrollment limited to senior Political Science majors. so

* EP&E 257b / LAST 251b / PLSC 399b, Political Power and Inequality in Latin America  Ana De La O
Overview and analysis of politics in Latin America. The emergence of democracy and the forces that led to the unprecedented increase in inequality in the twentieth century. Topics include institutional design, historical legacies, corruption, clientelism, and violence. so

* EP&E 286a / ECON 475a, Discrimination in Law, Theory, and Practice  Gerald Jaynes
How law and economic theory define and conceptualize economic discrimination; whether economic models adequately describe behaviors of discriminators as documented in court cases and government hearings; the extent to which economic theory and econometric techniques aid our understanding of actual marketplace discrimination. Prerequisites: introductory microeconomics and at least one additional course in Economics, African American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, or Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

EP&E 295a / PLSC 344a, Game Theory and Political Science  Ian Turner
Introduction to game theory—a method by which strategic interactions among individuals and groups in society are mathematically modeled—and its applications to political science. Concepts employed by game theorists, such as Nash equilibrium, subgame perfect equilibrium, and perfect Bayesian equilibrium. Problems of cooperation, time-consistency, signaling, and reputation formation. Political applications include candidate competition, policy making, political bargaining, and international conflict. No prerequisites other than high school algebra. Political Science majors who take this course may not count ECON 159 toward the major. QR, so

* EP&E 297b / ECON 471b, Topics in Cooperative Game Theory  Pradeep Dubey
The theory and applications of cooperative games. Topics include matching, bargaining, cost allocation, market games, voting games, and games on networks. Prerequisite: intermediate microeconomics.

* EP&E 298a / ECON 481a, Empirical Microeconomics  Guillermo Noguera
Introduction to empirical microeconomics and its methodologies. Academic research in the field explored using tools from economic theory and econometrics. Topics include approaches to identification, environmental effects on health, and the economics of crime, gender, and race. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and econometrics. so

* EP&E 302b / GLBL 259b / HIST 469Jb / PLSC 391b, State Formation  Didac Queralt
Study of the domestic and international determinants of functional states from antiquity to date. Analysis of state-formation in Europe in pre-modern and outside Europe from colonial times to date. Topics include centralization of power, capacity to tax, and contract enforcement. so

* EP&E 306a / EP&E S306 / PLSC 228a / PLSC S228, First Amendment and Ethics of Law  Karen Goodrow
This course addresses the First Amendment and freedom of speech, focusing on the ethical implications of restrictions on free speech, as well as the exercise of free speech. Course topics and discussions include the “fighting words” doctrine, hate speech, true threats, content regulated speech, freedom of speech and the internet, and the so-called “right to be forgotten.” By the end of the course, students recognize the role free speech plays in society, including its negative and positive impacts on various segments of society. Students also have an understanding of the competing interests arising from the First Amendment’s right to free speech, and can analyze how these competing interests are weighed and measured in the United States as compared with other countries. so

* EP&E 309a, Democracy Incorporated: Business, Politics, and Ethics  Tiago Peterlevitz
Until recently, business corporations and the market economy were mostly associated with the promotion of individual freedoms and the advancement of political rights. Technological change, economic deregulation, and market concentration have increased the power of business corporations. This growing power has led many citizens to believe that corporations are now disempowering individuals. How is corporate power used for political purposes? Where should societies draw the line limiting the transformation of economic into political power? These are the main questions that motivate this course, which investigates the relationship between politics and business. We study how corporations attempt to influence public policy and how political actors seek to shape corporate decisions. We also examine how political institutions and democratic accountability affect government-business relations. Throughout the course, we pay close attention to research design and to the effective communication of research findings. Discussions also emphasize the normative implications of powerful corporations to democracy and democratic theory. so

* EP&E 312a / PLSC 297a, Moral Choices in Politics  Boris Kapustin
A study of how and why people make costly moral choices in politics. Figures studied include Thomas More, Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, Václav Havel, and Aung San Suu Kyi. so

* EP&E 316a / EAST 344a / PLSC 444a, Governing China  Daniel Mattingly
Study of the politics of contemporary China, with a focus on recent research. Topics include elite politics, technology, economic growth, trade, repression, propaganda, protest, the military, and foreign policy. so

* EP&E 325b / PLSC 304b, Business Ethics and Law  Robin Landis
This seminar is intended to provide frameworks for the analysis of ethical issues that may arise in the context of business decisions, including such aspects as the role of ethics, competing values and interests, and tools for making principled decisions. The course also covers, as appropriate, some aspects of law as they relate to business ethics. Previous courses in philosophy and ethics may be helpful. so
* **EP&E 334a / PHIL 455a, Normative Ethics** Shelly Kagan

A systematic examination of normative ethics, the part of moral philosophy that attempts to articulate and defend the basic principles of morality. The course surveys and explores some of the main normative factors relevant in determining the moral status of a given act or policy (features that help make a given act right or wrong). Brief consideration of some of the main views about the foundations of normative ethics (the ultimate basis or ground for the various moral principles). Prerequisite: a course in moral philosophy. **HU**

* **EP&E 336b / PLSC 258b, Democracy and Bureaucracy** Ian Turner

Exploration of what government agencies do and why; focus on issues of accountability and the role of bureaucracy in representative democracy. Understanding how bureaucracy works internally and how it is affected by interactions with other political actors and institutions. **SO**

* **EP&E 339b / PLSC 273b, The Ethics of Journalism** Jacob Weisberg

An examination of key issues about the rights and responsibilities of the press. Topics include truth and verification, bias and objectivity, the handling of government secrets, the use of misrepresentation and deception, privacy, and the protection of sources. Case studies including WikiLeaks and the Pentagon Papers will supplement readings from critics such as Walter Lippmann, George Orwell, Janet Malcolm, and Neil Postman.

* **EP&E 342b, Economics of Income Inequality** Staff

This course is an overview of the contemporary research on income inequality with a special emphasis on the roles of technology and institutions. The motivation of this course is the recent empirical trends such as the declining labor shares and the increasing wealth gap observed in most developed economies. The objective of the course is to explore the causes and the consequences of rising income inequality, and to explain the relevant policy tools. **SO**

* **EP&E 344b / GLBL 354b, Ethical Challenges for Business in Developing Countries: Cases from South Africa** Tumi Makgetla

This course examines critical ethical challenges confronting businesses in developing countries using cases from South Africa. These challenges include navigating comparatively weak states and regulatory demands for racial diversification, government pressure to develop local suppliers, political conflict, consumer demands for accountability, calls for environmental sustainability and trade union politics. Each week, class participants use a case drawn from South Africa related to a thematic area to debate the ethical considerations involved in doing business in a developing country context. The course combines the study of the political economy of development, with a focus on South Africa, and frameworks for ethical decision-making in the business environment. **SO**

* **EP&E 346a / HLTH 420a, Global Health Ethics** Cara Fallon

When a new virus sweeps the globe, how should physicians, governments, and societies respond? What are an individual’s rights and responsibilities in the face of illness, and how do public health organizations prioritize competing claims? How should issues of consent, quarantine, compulsory treatment, and surveillance be managed, and how do these issues change as they transcend geographic borders? This seminar examines critical issues in global health through the method of ethical analysis. The course begins with the foundations for analyzing ethical problems, considering moral and ethical frameworks for health. We examine dilemmas such as quarantines, access to care, and the limits of autonomy, and we delve into critical challenges of vulnerable populations and global inequities. We conclude by analyzing emerging tensions posed by artificial intelligence and digital health technologies. Drawing together global health perspectives and ethical analysis, we consider the principles, tradeoffs, and central tensions that inform global health today. **WR, SO**

* **EP&E 348b, Technology, Ethics, Economics** Staff

This course explores the economic and ethical challenges posed by the recent advances in technology. Topics include the technological forces behind rising inequality, the race between automation and education, and the impact of artificial intelligence/machine learning on the labor markets. Our focus is primarily on the ethical dimension of the debate including inequality, fairness, freedom, and responsibility. **SO**

* **EP&E 353b / PLSC 305b, Critique of Political Violence** Boris Kapustin

Methods of conceptualizing political violence that are prevalent in contemporary political philosophical discourse. Use of theoretical-analytical tools to examine the modes violence assumes and the functions it performs in modern political life as well as the meanings and possibilities of nonviolence in politics. **SO**

* **EP&E 354a / PLSC 300a / PLSC 623a, Rethinking the Political Enlightenment** Ian Shapiro

The calamities wrought by Fascism and Nazism, together with growing disillusionment at the excesses and direction Soviet communism and then Mao's China, led many postwar intellectuals to rethink the Enlightenment's promise. In politics that promise had centered on the creation of durable political institutions based on scientific principles that would foster, expand, and protect human freedom. We study the ways in which the harsh realities of twentieth century politics led political theorists to modify, recast, and in some cases reject these Enlightenment aspirations, and we evaluate those responses from the perspective of our contemporary politics. Readings are drawn from, among others, Jonathan Israel, James Tully, Hannah Arendt, Herbert Marcuse, Nicos Poulantzas, Jürgen Habermas, Leo Strauss, Isaiah Berlin, Michel Foucault, Richard Rorty, Alasdair MacIntyre, Charles Taylor, Anthony Appiah, Nancy Fraser, Carol Pateman, Judith Shklar, Quentin Skinner, J.G.A. Pocock, Michael Walzer, and Iris Marion Young. Among the themes discussed are the connections between Enlightenment aspirations and the ideas of modernization, progress, and democracy; the advantages and limitations of periodization in the study of political theory; and teleological conceptions of history. Open to PhD students in Political Science and to graduate students in other departments and programs by agreement with the instructor. Open to undergraduates as space permits, provided they have completed at least three political science courses, one of which is PLSC 114, PLSC 118, or equivalent such as Directed Studies. **SO**
* **EP&E 356a, Constitutional Law and Business Ethics**  
Gregory Collins  
This course has three specific aims: 1) Examine influential Supreme Court cases that have had a significant impact on the practice of American business activities; 2) Identify the critical ethical questions that these legal controversies raise about such activities; and 3) Connect these legal and ethical insights to a broader theoretical understanding of the proper role of government in regulating private economic activity. Prerequisites: Familiarity with major theories in the business ethics discipline (virtue ethics, deontological ethics, utilitarianism, natural rights theory) and the U.S. Constitution.

* **EP&E 362a / PHIL 462a, The Morality of Reparations**  
Stephen Darwall  
The history of chattel slavery and its long legacy, even to the current moment, is a history of almost unimaginable injustice. What is the appropriate moral response to this history? This turns out to be a complex and difficult question, or set of questions, which we explore in this course. Some of these are issues of philosophical theory, however, of “nonideal theory,” where the questions concern not what is ideally just, but what responses are called for by historical injustice. But there are also important empirical historical issues concerning the precise character of the injustices and who, and what institutions, were complicit in them. We examine, as best we can, the history of chattel slavery and its long legacy: the white reaction to what Du Bois called “black reconstruction,” racist violence and terror, and decades of white supremacy, including segregation in all its forms and, most recently, mass incarceration. Ultimately, however, our questions are philosophical. What response does justice require to this history and of whom is it required?  

* **EP&E 380a / PLSC 313a, Bioethics, Politics, and Economics**  
Stephen Latham  
Ethical, political, and economic aspects of a number of contemporary issues in biomedical ethics. Topics include abortion, assisted reproduction, end-of-life care, research on human subjects, and stem cell research.  

* **EP&E 390a / EVST 212a / PLSC 212a, Democracy and Sustainability**  
Michael Fotos  
Democracy, liberty, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Concepts include institutional analysis, democratic consent, property rights, market failure, and common pool resources. Topics of policy substance are related to human use of the environment and to U.S. and global political institutions.  

* **EP&E 396a / AMST 469a / PLSC 251a, American Progressivism and Its Critics**  
Stephen Skowronek  
The progressive reform tradition in American politics. The tradition’s conceptual underpinnings, social supports, practical manifestations in policy and in new governmental arrangements, and conservative critics. Emphasis on the origins of progressivism in the early decades of the twentieth century, with attention to latter-day manifestations and to changes in the progressive impulse over time.  

* **EP&E 421b / PLSC 320b, Ethics, Law, and Current Issues**  
Karen Goodrow  
Examination of how freedom of speech and bias influence the criminal justice system, focusing on wrongful convictions and administration of the death penalty. Understanding the role of potential bias at various levels and the competing interests of protecting speech, due process, and the innocent. Topics include limitations on speech, practical effects of speech, the efficacy of the death penalty, actual innocence, gender/race/economic bias and its effects on the justice system, as well as best practices for improving our sense of justice.  

* **EP&E 491a, The Senior Essay**  
Peter Swenson  
A one-term senior essay. The essay should fall within the student’s area of concentration. If no appropriate seminar is offered in which the essay might be written, the student, in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies, should choose an appropriate member of the faculty to supervise the senior essay. Students must obtain the signature of the faculty member supervising their independent work on an Independent Study Form (available from the Ethics, Politics, and Economics registrar’s office). This form must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies at the time the student’s class schedule is submitted.

Peter Swenson  
A two-term senior essay. The essay should fall within the student’s area of concentration. The student, in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies, should choose an appropriate member of the faculty to supervise the senior essay. Students must obtain the signature of the faculty member supervising their independent work on an Independent Study Form (available from the Ethics, Politics, and Economics registrar’s office). This form must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies at the time the student’s class schedule is submitted.

* **EP&E 497a / EVST 247a / PLSC 219a, Politics of the Environment**  
Peter Swenson  
Historical and contemporary politics aimed at regulating human behavior to limit damage to the environment. Goals, strategies, successes, and failures of movements, organizations, corporations, scientists, and politicians in conflicts over environmental policy. Focus on politics in the U.S., including the role of public opinion; attention to international regulatory efforts, especially with regard to climate change.