

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

Program Description – *including prefixes, numbers and titles of required course, total credit hours (must be 15–18 hours), residency (if any), and grade requirements (if any). The objective in instituting a minor field of study at the University of Georgia is to encourage and officially acknowledge the attainment of students by a fair measure of expertise and knowledge in more than one academic field.*

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 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.

1. 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.

2. Three of the Following Courses (9 hours):

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

OR

JURI XXXX Law, Justice, and the State (Proposed)¹

JURI 3233E Foundations of American Law

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.

¹ We expect this course to be approved. If it is not approved, the only JURI option will be JURI 3233/JURI 3233E.

JURI _____ Law, Justice, and the State (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.

Students will complete the minor by fulfilling the above requirements. 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.



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

School of Law
225 Herty Drive
Athens, Georgia 30602-6012
TEL 706-542-5174 | FAX 706-542-5556
lesawyer@uga.edu

Logan E. Sawyer, III
Associate Professor of Law
Director of Undergraduate Studies

September 4, 2020

Professor Aaron Meskin
Head of Philosophy
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
106 Peabody Hall
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Professor Meskin,

Thank you for sharing your proposal for a minor in Law, Ethics, and Philosophy. After conversations with members of my faculty, Associate Dean Randy Beck, and the Dean of the Law School Peter Rutledge, I write to say that we appreciate being consulted on such a well-considered course of study, and are happy to support the minor. In particular, we will welcome students pursuing this minor into undergraduate classes taught by law faculty.

We always appreciate when entering J.D. students arrive with the kinds of sharp analytical skills that are developed in philosophy programs. We thus expect this program will help prepare students to succeed in law school. We also hope it might also help keep a few more talented UGA undergrads here on campus for law school.

Sincerely,

Logan E. Sawyer, III

Logan E. Sawyer, III
Associate Professor of Law
Director of Undergraduate Studies, University of Georgia School of Law