

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

HONOURS BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ETHICS AND
CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES (BACHELOR'S)

This is the face of change



UNIVERSITÉ
SAINT-PAUL
UNIVERSITY

ustpaul.ca/programs

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program description

Ethics is the branch of study that deals with human behaviour and values in the context of the society in which we live. Ethics seeks to answer two questions: how to live one's life well and how to do the right thing.

Offered by the Faculty of Philosophy, the Public Ethics undergraduate program provides a basic understanding of the major ethical issues within contemporary society, and of ethical problems in such areas as religion, politics, health, business, communications, justice, environment, public affairs, etc. Applying key ethical theories, students analyze these issues, identify their inherent values and conflicts, and suggest possible solutions to these ethical dilemmas.

In addition to the foundational courses,* the program offers courses on the theories developed by leading thinkers in the fields of ethics and moral and political philosophy. Students are given an opportunity to deepen their understanding of specific subjects by applying their theoretical knowledge to concrete ethical challenges.

*The foundational courses are a compulsory part of every bachelor's degree program offered at Saint Paul University.

What you'll learn

During your studies you will explore the major fields and themes of philosophy and their related issues, in order to define, explain and clarify an ethical problem.

You will also learn to communicate your knowledge effectively (in writing and orally), and to take a position on an ethical dilemma and suggest possible solutions.

Why choose Saint Paul University?

- » For its small class sizes and close student-teacher ratio
- » For its safe, secure and friendly campus with personalized services
- » For its bilingual setting in the heart of the national capital
- » For its diverse student population and international vision
- » For its solid reputation, experience, history and Catholic tradition

Career opportunities

- » Aboriginal affairs officer
- » Analyst
- » Columnist
- » Development officer
- » Editor
- » Essayist
- » Ethics advisor in the private and public sector
- » Journalist who specializes in this area
- » Liaison officer for immigrant settlement
- » Policy analyst
- » Policy officer
- » Press secretary
- » Public programs officer

» Researcher

[Click here](#) to find out more about Admission Scholarships at Saint Paul University.

Other programs that may interest you

» [Honours Bachelor of Arts in Conflict Studies](#)

TEACHING STAFF

BEAUVAIS, Chantal, Rector

CHANDRA SHUKLA, Rajesh, Professor

CLOUTIER, Sophie, Professor

FEIST, Richard, Professor

LANOIX, Monique, Professor

MCLENNAN, Matthew, Professor

PAQUETTE, Julie, Associate Professor

PERRON, Louis, Professor

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Foundational Courses (12 credits)

Compulsory Courses: 12 credits

- » HTP1102 Approaches in the Humanities: Interpreting the Human Experience
- » HTP1103 People, Social Justice and Ecology
- » HTP1105 Critical Analysis, Reading and Writing Academic Works
- » HTP1106 The First Peoples of Canada

Discipline Specific Courses (60 credits)

Compulsory Courses: 42 credits

- » PHI1105 Introduction to Critical Thinking
- » PHI2141 Fundamentals of Democracy and Governance
- » PHI2142 Utilitarian Ethics
- » PHI2143 Deontological Ethics
- » PHI2144 Virtue Ethics
- » PHI2146 Social Justice
- » PHI2181 Human Knowledge
- » PHI2182 Philosophical Anthropology
- » PHI3133 Feminist Ethics
- » PHI3307 Ethics, Multiculturalism and Immigration
- » PHI3308 Ethics and Public Service
- » PHI3901 Internship 1
- » PHI4121 Applied Ethics in Organizational Contexts
- » PHI4181 Research Project

Optional Courses: 18 credits

9 credits from:

- » ISC2306 Media and Ethics
- » PHI2111 History of Western Ethics
- » PHI2121 Ethics and New Biotechnologies
- » PHI2185 Ethics and Education
- » PHI3134 Environmental and Animal Ethics
- » PHI3383 Conservatism and Libertarianism
- » PHI3385 Marx and Marxian Traditions

9 credits from:

- » PHI3129 Ethics, AI and Big Data
- » PHI3309 Ethics and Religion
- » PHI4119 Ethics, War and Terrorism
- » PHI4155 Selected Topics in Ethics and Politics
- » PHI4313 Ethics and Disability

» PHI4901 Internship 2

Elective Courses (48 credits)

Students choose 48 credits or a minor (30 credits) and 18 credits to complete their bachelor program.

12 credits must be at the 3000 or 4000 level.

COURSES

HTP 1102 - APPROACHES IN THE HUMANITIES: INTERPRETING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

Introduction to theoretical approaches in the Humanities and to the methods that are applied to interpret the multiple expressions of human experience, particularly those expressed in important works of art and literature.

HTP 1103 - PEOPLE, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECOLOGY

Social and ecological challenges facing humanity today, and related issues of social justice. These questions will be examined from a perspective of community building and efforts towards ecological and social transformations for a hopeful future.

HTP 1105 - CRITICAL ANALYSIS, READING AND WRITING ACADEMIC WORKS

Development of abilities to read critically and understand academic works. Focus on formal writing skills: techniques of clear expression and construction of texts, argument development and organization. This course also includes a library laboratory component with focus on research skills, citations, and academic integrity.

HTP 1106 - THE FIRST PEOPLES IN CANADA

Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives on the First Peoples in Canada, cultural diversity, traditional practices and beliefs, relationship with the environment, changing roles and structures influenced by colonization. Contemporary issues faced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit, including cultural genocide and trauma.

ISC 2306 - MEDIA AND ETHICS

Constitutive elements of ethical behavior. Basic ethical criteria in media communication. Rights in communication situations. Deontology codes in use in several institutions. Case analysis in media praxis: persuasion communication and fiction.

PHI 1105 - INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THINKING

Explores the various sides of Critical Thinking: the nature of arguments, common errors in reasoning as well as evaluating evidence and information. Enables students to acquire and develop research and writing skills.

PHI 2111 - HISTORY OF WESTERN ETHICS

When offered, this course would take one of the following three forms: I. Ancient and Medieval Ethics: Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman Ethics. Selection from Plato's Dialogues, and Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics. Selection from the Epicureans, Stoics, Neoplatonists, and Aquinas. II. Early Modern Ethics: Renaissance Humanists, Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, and Hume. III. Post-Kantian Ethics. Selections from Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, J.S. Mill, T.H. Green. Selections from Moore, the positivists and post-modernists. Western ethics may be compared and contrasted to selected non-Western traditions.

PHI 2121 - ETHICS AND NEW BIOTECHNOLOGIES

Impact of robotics and new technologies on the patient-healthcare practitioner relationship, medical interventions, the manner in which we perceive our own bodies, and transhumanism.

PHI 2141 - FUNDAMENTALS OF DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Study of the fundamentals of democracy and governance, and of its principal thinkers and critics, starting from Plato. Distinction between ancient and modern forms of democracy. Overview of the principles of political liberalism underpinning contemporary democracies. Comparison between democracy and other forms of government. Study of different models of governance and of the implications of a managerial conception of politics.

PHI 2142 - UTILITARIAN ETHICS

General history of utilitarianism, with readings from main thinkers in the tradition from its beginnings up to the present day (Bentham, Mill, Sidgwick, Singer, Lazari-Radek). Study of applied dimensions of this approach, as well as of its limitations.

PHI 2143 - DEONTOLOGICAL ETHICS

General history of deontology, with readings from main thinkers in this tradition from its beginnings up to the present day (Kant, Ross, O'Neill). Study of applied dimensions of this approach, as well as of its limitations.

PHI 2144 - VIRTUE ETHICS

General history of virtue ethics, with readings from main thinkers in this tradition from its beginnings to the present day (Aristotle, MacIntyre, Nussbaum, non-western perspectives). Study of applied dimensions of this approach, as well as of its limitations.

PHI 2146 - SOCIAL JUSTICE

Explores, from the perspective of social justice theories, issues such as social inequalities, poverty, refugees, war, and environmental degradation. Examines criticisms of this perspective.

PHI 2181 - HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

Study of the traditional, universalist, approach to knowledge as well as contemporary standpoint approaches, such as feminist and postmodernist.

PHI 2182 - PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Study of different philosophical conceptions of the human being.

PHI 2185 - ETHICS AND EDUCATION

Examination of the philosophical and psychological research on the formation of ethical judgments. Relationships between judgment, feeling, and moral action. Examination of how various learning theories can be incorporated into teaching ethics to children, how ethics may be taught to children both

inside and outside a religious context. Education as a pillar of democratic citizenship.

PHI 3129 - ETHICS, AI AND BIG DATA

Study of emerging ethical issues and dilemmas prompted by the Internet and related technologies. Range of topics that could include privacy, cyber-bullying, algorithms governance, control society, accessibility issues, and the monetization of data. Foundations of artificial intelligence, and ethical and public policy issues linked to emerging and possible artificial intelligence technologies.

PHI 3133 - FEMINIST ETHICS

Examination of the development of critical theories and new ethical models in different feminist currents. How these ethics take into consideration the marginalized voices of oppressed groups.

PHI 3134 - ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANIMAL ETHICS

Explores ethical issues concerning non-human animals and the environment, such as harvesting non-human animals for food production and the social problems arising from global warming.

PHI 3307 - ETHICS, MULTICULTURALISM AND IMMIGRATION

This course examines the relation of ethics, multiculturalism, and immigration, studies the questions regarding the possibility of a multicultural ethics, and addresses the issues and debates arising from cultural relativism and identity politics in the functioning of modern societies.

PHI 3308 - ETHICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Ethical issues relating to the public sector. Definitions of the common good and of public service. Study of the role of public policy in the functioning of various states and governments, and the implications of their coherence or conflict in the social, political and economic realms.

PHI 3309 - ETHICS AND RELIGION

This course examines the philosophical foundations of various ethical and religious traditions and addresses the possibility of their convergence in modern liberal societies.

PHI 3383 - CONSERVATISM AND LIBERTARIANISM

Explores the various kinds of conservative and libertarian philosophies with an emphasis on their differing views on the nature of truth and reason. Investigates conservative and libertarian critiques of social justice.

PHI 3385 - MARX AND MARXIAN TRADITIONS

Analysis of Marxist theories as well as non-western and recent post-marxist interpretations and their mobilization in thinking through oppression and power relationships.

PHI 3901 - INTERNSHIP I

A minimum of 130 hours professionally supervised in an environment that includes a component of public ethics or analysis of public policies. The internship incorporates a cumulative reflective practice component in order to encourage the critical integration of theory and practice. The internship culminates in the writing of a detailed practicum report. Prerequisite: 24 PHI credits with a cumulative grade point average of 8.0. Graded S/NS.

PHI 4119 - ETHICS, WAR AND TERRORISM

Analysis of ethical, political, and public policy dimensions of armed conflict in a global era: just war theory, humanitarian intervention, war and diplomacy, emerging military technologies, torture, detainment, state of exception, and human rights.

PHI 4121 - APPLIED ETHICS IN ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXTS

Analysis of ethical issues emerging in organizational contexts. Case studies to demonstrate how ethical decisions are made on the ground.

PHI 4155 - SELECTED TOPICS IN ETHICS AND POLITICS

Study of a particular topic, thinker or tradition. Critical analysis of the link between ethics and politics.

PHI 4181 - RESEARCH PROJECT

Writing of a major research project. Application of what the student has learned over the course of the B.A. to a topic of his or her own interest.

PHI 4313 - ETHICS AND DISABILITY

Analyzes models of disability from medical to social and political models. Critically investigates the implications of these models for the social construction of individuals as disabled.

PHI 4901 - INTERNSHIP II

A minimum of 130 hours under professional supervision in a work environment related to ethics. The student develops a clearly defined research project integrating his or her theoretical knowledge. The internship culminates in the writing of a practicum report detailing the outcomes of the project while integrating a critical reflection on theory and practice. Prerequisite: PHI3901 Internship I. Graded S/NS.

CONTACT US

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Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.