

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

HONOURS B.A. IN ETHICS AND CONTEMPORARY  
SOCIAL ISSUES (BACHELOR'S)

This is the face of change



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

**ADMISSION APPLICATIONS TO THIS PROGRAM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED  
FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

### The Program at a Glance

In this program, you'll explore emerging social challenges and determine the best course of action from a practical and moral point of view.

This includes

- » Identifying and understanding social issues and their ethical aspects
- » Evaluating a range of responses to those issues
- » Designing political and policy interventions guided by moral arguments
- » Making decisions that lead to more ethical outcomes

The program incorporates aspects of ethics, political science and policy studies to create a well-rounded and practical foundation for future leaders and decision-makers.

The knowledge and skills gained in this program can be applied to a number of current issues. For example, encouraging ethical media practices, guiding ethical principles in emerging technologies, and developing policies that benefit people and the environment.

### Who Should Apply?

This program welcomes all individuals who are kept up at night by the daily news but who hold out hope that the world can be improved through practical reasoning.

### Internships and Research Opportunities

As a student, you will gain real-world experience with two internships in the public service and/or non-governmental organizations.

In partnership with the school's [Research Centre in Public Ethics and Governance](#), this program also offers you the unique opportunity to work with professors and contribute to ongoing research projects.

### Career Opportunities

This program will prepare you by providing you with the knowledge, critical thinking and analysis skills you need to excel in a number of work settings, including: health care, law, policy research and development, as well as social justice.

Graduates of this program have gone on to the following career paths:

- » Ethics advisor in the public sector, NGOs and hospitals
- » Law
- » Policy analyst
- » Humanitarian worker
- » Graduate school in a number of humanitarian fields

### Admission Details

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Registration: Full-time and part-time

Program length: 8 trimesters or 4 years (full-time)

Program delivery method: Some courses are also available online.

Language: This program is also available in [French](#).

For more detailed information, please click [here](#).

A student enrolled in the Public Ethics (Honours Bachelor of Arts) program may add a complementary minor, according to the student's particular interests and requirements.

### Scholarship Opportunities

Students enrolled in this program may be eligible for a number of scholarships. For more information, please click [here](#).

**This diploma is jointly offered with uOttawa.**

## TEACHING STAFF

BEAUVAIS, Chantal, Rector

CHANDRA SHUKLA, Rajesh, Associate Professor

CLOUTIER, Sophie, Associate Professor

FEIST, Richard, Associate professor

LANOIX, Monique, Associate professor

MCLENNAN, Matthew, Associate Professor

PERRON, Louis, Associate Professor

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### Foundational Courses (12 units)

#### Compulsory Courses: 12 units

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 in Canada

### Discipline Specific Courses (60 units)

#### Compulsory Courses: 42 units

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 I / Stage I  
PHI4121 Applied Ethics in Organizational Contexts  
PHI4181 Research Project

#### Optional Courses: 18 units

##### 9 units 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 units 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 II / Stage II

### Elective Courses (48 units)

Students choose 48 units **or** a minor (30 units) and 18 units.

12 units 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

### Office of Admissions, Registrar and Student Services

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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.