

# APPLIED ETHICS

Established in 1980 by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Program in Applied Ethics is an inter-school program reporting to the Office of the Provost. It operates in close coordination with the deans of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Dolan School of Business, the School of Engineering, and the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies.

The Program integrates interdisciplinary courses, seminars, lectures, colloquia, and workshops in the fields of professional ethics (business, healthcare, science, law, engineering, education, and communication), ethics for the citizen (government, community, environmental concerns, war and peace), and global studies (ethical dimensions of global violence, global health, environmental policies, business practices, and humanitarian action). This unified approach to the theory and practice of ethical conduct in all fields raises student awareness of the moral dilemmas of their chosen fields of practice, of allied fields, and of society and the world. The Program offers a series of core-level and elective courses and seminars in service to various academic and professional programs, and a 15-credit minor.

## Patrick J. Waide Jr. Fund

In 2002, Patrick J. Waide Jr. '59, a former University trustee and distinguished alumnus of Fairfield University, generously established a continuing fund to spend on invited speakers, course materials, and scheduled activities on topics of international affairs, global ethics, and public policy. The first major disbursement established the Resource Center for Global Studies, located in the central office of the Program on Applied Ethics and open to the University community during working hours.

## Programs

- Applied Ethics Minor (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/applied-ethics/applied-ethics-minor>)

## Courses

### AE 0262 Ethics and the Community 3 Credits

**Attributes:** PJST Peace and Justice Studies

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This course surveys the philosophical grounding of the organizations in contemporary society, examining structured human groups from the household, through the village (or religious/ethnic association), to the nation-state to understand their moral undertakings in their environment; to consider how they implement and balance rights and duties, rules and compassion, autonomy and common purposes. This course gives special attention to structural injustice in the treatment of those marginalized by gender, race, or socioeconomic deficit, and includes an effort to determine where new understanding may yield suggestions for structural modification. Students are provided the opportunity to research and present projects on contemporary social problems that illustrate the themes of the course.

### AE 0265 Ethics in Education 3 Credits

**Attributes:** EDCG Educational Studies Cognate, EDDV Educational Studies Diversity

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This survey of the ethical issues that arise in the classroom, school, and school district also covers those issues, to a lesser extent, in the educational policies of the state and federal government. The course directly addresses issues of race, class, and gender in the educational system, addressing entitlement to education, access to education, discipline in the educational setting, multicultural issues in general, politics, accountability, assessment, and the ethics of respect as they pertain to teachers, students, and administrators.

### AE 0270 Ethical Dimensions of Global Violence 3 Credits

**Attributes:** WDIV World Diversity

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

A survey of the ethical implications of the new and alarming potentials for violence in a disorderly world. The new faces of violence - insurgency, terrorism inspired by religion, plans for mass destruction, children as warriors - will be examined in the context of Just War theory, the Christian commitment to social justice, and the emerging international order (and disorder). Fully half the course will explore the perspectives of the developing world, especially as violence occurs between factions from the developing world and the traditional wielders of force in the North and West.

### AE 0272 Ethics of Humanitarian Action 3 Credits

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This course provides students with principles and methods of ethics that they will apply to issues of humanitarian action. Examples of humanitarian action to be considered in this course include the international humanitarian system run by states, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the United Nations and its lead agencies and, increasingly, the private sector. Students also will learn about the development of humanitarian codes of conduct, values and principles, which they will evaluate in terms of their ethical content.

### AE 0276 Ethical Dimensions of Global Business Practices 3 Credits

**Attributes:** HACA Humanitarian Action Minor Context Course, WDIV World Diversity

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

A survey of the ethical dimensions of contemporary business practice generally, with special emphasis on the ethical implications of global business enterprise. Topics include global employment practices, human and employee rights in a global economy, the implications of external debt for the economies of developing nations, the human costs and benefits of the changes in global agriculture and food provision generally, and the work of international agencies (the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank in particular) in guiding the economies of the world. A three-week unit will focus on the economic implications of natural and man made disasters and humanitarian crises.

### AE 0281 Ethics of Communications 3 Credits

**Attributes:** ENEC Digital Journalism Ethics Component

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This course examines the moral dilemmas of media management, political propaganda, campaign promotions, public relations, and corporate communication. Topics include advertising and marketing practices, especially political advocacy and messages targeted to various audiences; truth and loyalty in public relations practices; the philosophical and constitutional bases of freedom of the press; and problems of media bias, systematic and otherwise.

**AE 0283 Environmental Justice****3 Credits**

**Attributes:** EVME Environmental Studies Major Elective, EVPE Environmental Studies Elective, PJST Peace and Justice Studies, WSGF Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Gender Focused

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This course offers a comprehensive study of the political impact of our global environmental crisis examined through the lens of the relationship of self to society. We study current scientific, religious, economic, and political perspectives that impact our ecological reality globally, including health, trade, population, and waste issues. Working in self-selected groups, students have the opportunity to report on alternative models and activists' movements aimed at creating a global sustainable future.

**AE 0284 Environmental Ethics****3 Credits**

**Attributes:** EVHU Environmental Studies: Humanities, EVPE Environmental Studies Elective, PJST Peace and Justice Studies

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

Students examine the environmental problems that arise in our attempts to reconcile the demands of human fulfillment and economic activity, and the requirements of ecological balance. Issues include the diverse perspectives of conservation, preservation, and deep ecology. Student projects cover the wise use of resources; pollution of land, air, and water; conservation of species and open space; global climatic change; and the future stewardship of oceans, forests, and the atmosphere.

**AE 0285 Ethics of Health Care****3 Credits**

**Attributes:** HSTE Health Studies: Traditions, Delivery, and Ethics

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This course considers the moral dilemmas of the healthcare setting. Topics include patients' rights (medical paternalism and patient autonomy, informed consent to therapy, and participation in research); dilemmas of reproduction (technological assistance, abortion, cloning); dilemmas of life and death (assisted suicide, euthanasia, technological interventions for the dying); allocation of healthcare resources; and the special dilemmas of healthcare professionals caught in binds between HMO contracts and professional obligations.

**AE 0287 Engineering Ethics****3 Credits**

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This course systematically explores the ethical dimensions of situations and tasks common to engineering practice. Issues include professionalism, codes of ethics, consumer risk and safety, employee loyalty and whistle-blowing, research and ownership of information, and the engineer's responsibility to the natural environment.

**AE 0291 Business Ethics****3 Credits**

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This course investigates ethical problems in business practice. Topics include the foundation of the free-market system, personal morality in profit-oriented enterprises; codes of ethics, obligations to employees and other stakeholders; truth in advertising, whistle-blowing, and company loyalty; self and government regulation; the logic and future of capitalism; and the changing responsibilities of the manager in a rapidly globalizing business environment.

**AE 0293 Ethics of War and Peace****3 Credits**

**Attributes:** PJST Peace and Justice Studies

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This is a survey of issues relating to war and international conflict. Topics include Just War theory, human rights issues, the impact of war on women, the role of the United Nations Security Council, and the history of global attempts to proscribe and prevent aggression. The course also looks at related issues that have emerged in recent years, such as humanitarian intervention and economic sanctions.

**AE 0295 Ethics in Law and Society****3 Credits**

**Prerequisite:** One course in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This course is an inquiry into the ethical dilemmas of making, enforcing, adjudicating, obeying and practicing the law. Topics include the nature of law and the province of jurisprudence, responsibility of the criminal bar (defense, prosecution, judicial), conflicts of interest, election or appointment of judges, the moral infrastructure of the Constitution, the limits of adjudication, and issues relating to investigative technique (torture and extreme confinement conditions).

**AE 0299 Special Topics (Shell)****3 Credits**

The course is an opportunity for the student to carry out a major project in Applied Ethics involving work in the community, derived from a previous Applied Ethics course.

**AE 0391 Seminar in Business Law, Regulation, and Ethics****3 Credits**

**Prerequisites:** Two courses in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

This seminar investigates ethical dilemmas of business management, primarily as encountered in real cases. Themes vary from year to year. Format: guest presentations by members of the business community, followed by discussion.

**AE 0399 Special Topics in Applied Ethics****3 Credits**

Students undertake an advanced program of course, field, and library work arranged with the instructor. Proposals for special topics must be approved by the director and the dean of the student's school.

## Faculty

### Director

Schmidt (Management)

### Steering Committee

Conelius (Nursing)

Hulse (GSEAP)

Naser (Philosophy)

Lee (Accounting)

Scalese, S.J. (Campus Ministry)

Zabinski (Engineering)

### Lecturers

Brockman

Brown

Colburn

Johnson, C.

Rion

Sticca

Tanner

Ventrella

Yoder