

**PASSION.
RIGOR.
PURPOSE.**

THE ETHICS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

A course of study that could change your life.



THE KENAN
INSTITUTE FOR ETHICS



What is a good life and how should it be lived?
How does our identity shape our morality?
What does ethics mean in the face of power, violence, and cruelty?

They're big questions, among life's most important. Duke University's Ethics Certificate Program offers you an opportunity to examine these issues in depth—to test your convictions, deepen your knowledge, and explore your ambitions. It's a rigorous course of study designed to prepare you for life—both personally and professionally.

Begin with our signature Gateway Course, *The Challenges of Living an Ethical Life*, which draws on ancient and modern texts including dramas, autobiographies, and political commentaries to explore fundamental ethical questions. Then, choose six courses from a wide range of selections in philosophical, religious, and practical ethics, and in ethics in historical and cultural context, to build the program that best complements your chosen field of study. Finish with the Capstone Course, a research seminar where you will complete a research paper that integrates your special concerns into the broader issues of living an ethical life.

As you advance through the program's multidisciplinary coursework, you'll learn how ethical issues have been framed across history and cultures, and how ethical challenges are being negotiated in practice by policymakers, researchers, doctors, journalists, and others. You'll develop the knowledge and critical-thinking skills to fully engage in ethical debates. You'll become part of a diverse intellectual community of peers, graduate students, and faculty scholars. And you will build a clear commitment to ethical thought and action that will serve you well throughout your life and career.

“The Ethics Certificate Program helps students to analyze the ethical challenges of everyday life, to see the world from an ethical perspective different than their own, and to engage the Gateway Course authors—Sartre, Job, Plato, James Baldwin, Machiavelli, Nietzsche, Sophocles, Arendt, and Melville—in a moral dialogue that will continue throughout their lives.”

– Professor Peter Euben



ENGAGE AND INTERACT

As an ECP student, you will become part of a community of concern and inquiry that challenges you intellectually and personally both in and out of the classroom. Extracurricular activities include:

- Four intellectual/social occasions each year (two per semester; students are expected to attend)
- Supplementary advising
- Special opportunities to meet as a group with the Kenan Distinguished Lecturer in Ethics and other visitors sponsored by the Kenan Institute for Ethics
- Participation in intellectual occasions with members of the Kenan Graduate Colloquium and other co-curricular activities

CURRICULUM

Eight courses are required for completion of the Ethics Certificate Program (ECP):

1. ETHICS 100D Introductory Course: *The Challenges of Living an Ethical Life*
2. One course in *Philosophical Ethics* from a list of approved courses*
3. One course in *Practical Ethics* from a list of approved courses*
4. One course in *Religious Ethics* from a list of approved courses*
5. One course in *Ethics in Historical and Cultural Context* from a list of approved courses*
6. Two additional courses with an Ethical Inquiry (EI) designation (approval required)
7. ETHICS 200 Capstone Course: *Research Seminar in Ethics*

*Visit www.dukeethics.org to see a list of approved courses offered in the upcoming semester.

ETHICS 100D Introductory Course: *The Challenges of Living an Ethical Life*

This course, specially designed for the Ethics Certificate Program and taught by Professor Peter Euben, is framed by a number of familiar but fundamental ethical questions: What is a good, worthy, or just life (or lives)? How is it to be lived, among whom, by engaging in what sorts of activities, toward what ends? The course examines the origins of the concepts of ethics and morality, and how and why they became distinct realms of discourse and life. Specific issues include: public and private morality, morality and moralism, the possibility of ethical knowledge and the relationship of that knowledge to ethical action, purity and compromise, sin and redemption, political freedom and freedom of the will, just war and the justifications of violence, professional ethics and the professionalization of ethics, the politics of morality and the morality of politics, and the particular circumstances of ethics in a democratic polity.

Ancient and modern texts in a variety of genres provide a springboard for reflection on these issues. Students read dramas and philosophical analyses, parables and autobiographies, polemics and meditations, novels and political commentaries, case studies and historical examples. Together, these works provide different ways of approaching fundamental ethical questions and offer ways of resolving them.

“The Challenges of Living an Ethical Life was the best course that I have taken at Duke. I found myself connecting and applying the themes of our readings and discussions to my daily life constantly.”

– Scott Peppel T’10



“The Ethics Certificate Program is new and innovative, and has a galvanizing energy behind it—it will be an exciting and beneficial endeavor for any Duke student.”

– Jared Blau T’10

Visit www.dukeethics.org to see a list of approved courses offered in the upcoming semester.

PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS

ECP students must take one course that provides an overview of systematic approaches to moral philosophy.

PRACTICAL ETHICS

ECP students must take one course for its relevance either to applied ethics in the professions or to contemporary public policy issues.

RELIGIOUS ETHICS

ECP students must take one course that familiarizes them with the religious foundations of ethical thought.

ETHICS IN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

ECP students must take one course that explores how ethical ideas, visions, and practices change over time and across cultures.

ELECTIVE

ECP students must take at least two additional courses with an Ethical Inquiry (EI) designation (approval required).

ETHICS 200 Capstone Course: Research Seminar in Ethics

This advanced seminar is restricted to senior-year students enrolled in the Ethics Certificate Program. Each year the course will focus on a broad theme (such as equality and class, power and morality, ethical theory and ethical practice, justice and corruption, democracy and moral development) that will enable students who have developed distinct approaches to and special competence in questions of ethics to engage in a dialogue with one another across their specializations. Course discussions will be informed by the specific ethical problems and academic disciplines that have defined students’ work since they entered the program.

All students will complete a substantial research paper that integrates their special concerns into the broader issues of living an ethical life. Where appropriate, students’ projects in the seminar will link with departmental honors projects. All ECP students will be required to give an oral presentation on their research in a mini-conference or other forum as the culmination of their work in the program.



PEOPLE

Co-directors:

Peter Euben, Research Professor, Department of Political Science
319 Perkins Library, 919-660-4367, euben@duke.edu

Evan Charney, Assistant Professor, Departments of Public Policy Studies and Political Science
250 Rubenstein Hall, 919-613-9213, charney@pps.duke.edu

Steering Committee:

Robert Cook-Deegan, IGSP Center for Genome Ethics, Law & Policy

Alexa Farmer, Student Representative

Ebrahim Moosa, Department of Religion

Leela Prasad, Department of Religion

Poorav Rohatgi, Student Representative

Suzanne Shanahan, Kenan Institute for Ethics and Department of Sociology

David Wong, Department of Philosophy

Program Coordinator:

Doris Jordan

Kenan Institute for Ethics

102 West Duke Building

919-660-3137

db.jordan@duke.edu

“Professor Euben was able to articulate Socrates and Nietzsche with equal gusto. He had the moral imagination to be able to identify with what each author was saying—the students often couldn’t tell what side he was personally on.”

– Nathan Jones T’09



HOW TO ENROLL

All students are eligible to enroll in the Ethics Certificate Program, however juniors and seniors must have completed all requirements before registering for the Capstone Course. To enroll in the Program, please follow one of these processes:

- If you have not declared your major, please see your pre-major advisor to add the Ethics Certificate Program to your long-range plan.
- If you have declared your major, visit the Student Services Center (101 Allen Building) or the Office of the University Registrar (705 Broad St., Suite 202) and complete a change of major/minor/certificate form to add the Ethics Certificate Program to your academic plan.

Gateway Course: ETHICS 100D, *The Challenges of Living an Ethical Life*, is the Gateway Course for the Ethics Certificate Program. It is offered during the fall semester. Only rising sophomores and incoming freshmen are able to register for the Gateway Course without advance permission. Upperclassmen should contact Doris Jordan at db.jordan@duke.edu for permission to register. Priority will be given to upperclassmen already enrolled in the Ethics Certificate Program.

Capstone Course: ETHICS 200, *Research Seminar in Ethics*, is the Capstone Course for the Ethics Certificate Program. Instructor permission is required to register. Only seniors are able to enroll in the Capstone Course with a permission number from the instructor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the Program or the registration process, please contact Doris Jordan at 919-660-3137 or db.jordan@duke.edu.

For additional information about the Ethics Certificate Program, visit www.dukeethics.org.

*“Peter Euben has been one of the most important influences in my life at Duke. The books for *The Challenges of Living an Ethical Life* remain on your shelf—and reappear on your reading list—long after you’ve finished taking the course.”*

– Jimmy Soni, T’07