

Phil 137: Moral Psychology

Professor: Matthew Fulkerson
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Location: Solis 109
Office: HSS 8073 Office
Hours: Mondays 12-2

Course Description:

This course will examine a number of fundamental issues in moral psychology. As you will learn, moral psychology isn't really about normative ethics (the study of what we ought to do, morally). It also isn't just about psychology. Instead, moral psychology is a distinctive, interdisciplinary field that is concerned with how our actual nature as agents intersects with our moral concerns, values, and practices. We will examine a series of moral questions over the quarter, often looking to what our currently best science tells us about ourselves to help guide us.

Required Texts:

All readings will be made available through the course TritonEd site.

Course Mechanics:

TritonEd: *All* handouts, slides, homework assignments, study guides, and readings will be made available through this site. It is your responsibility to check this site regularly.

Lectures and discussion: I (most) often use slides in class. The slides will be used to focus discussion and organize complex material; *they are not a substitute for the readings*. The slides will be made available on TritonEd a few days after lecture. Students are expected to take careful notes and will be held responsible for the material discussed in class not found on the slides or in the readings. There is no separate time devoted to discussion; please (politely) interrupt at any time with comments or questions.

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to read each selection prior to class (preferably more than once). You should take notes while reading, keeping track of questions or issues that arise. You should bring both the reading and the notes/questions to class. 5-6 times per quarter there will be a short, unannounced reading quiz in class.

Grading:

There are two short essays, a final exam, and a quiz/participation grade:

Assignments	Value	Due Date
Essay 1 (5-6 pgs)	30%	Tues, Feb 7th
Essay 2 (5-6 pgs)	30%	Tues, March 14th
Quiz/Participation	10%	?
Final	30%	3/23/17

Course Policies:

To avoid penalties for late assignments, students must provide official documentation explaining why the assignment could not be handed in on time. Late homework without documentation will not be accepted. Late papers without documentation will receive a late penalty of 1/3 letter grade for each day a paper is late, including weekend days (no exceptions).

Turnitin: Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism (via the TED interface). All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Tentative Reading Schedule (subject to change):

Part 1: Free Will and Moral Responsibility

- Week 1
T 10th: Introduction, background, format, etc.
Th 12th: Frankfurt, “Freedom of the will and the concept of a person”
- Week 2:
T 17th: Wegner, “Precis of *The Illusion of Conscious Will*”
Th 19th: BBS Replies to Wegner

Part 2: Addiction and Psychopathy

- Week 3:
T 24th: Sinnott-Armstrong and Pickard, “What is Addiction?”
Th 26th: Levy, “Autonomy and Addiction”

- Week 4:
T 31st: Levy, “The Responsibility of the Psychopath Revisited”
Th 2nd: Pickard, “Psychopathy and the ability to do otherwise”

Part 3: Situational Influences on Behavior

- Week 5:
T 7th: Doris, “Persons, Situations, and Virtue Ethics”
Th 9th: Nelkin, “Freedom, Responsibility and the Challenge of Situationism”

Part 4: Sentimentalism and Empathy

- Week 6:
T 14th: D’arms, “Two Arguments for Sentimentalism”
Th 16th: Prinz, “Against Empathy”

Part 5: Moral Imagination

- Week 7:
T 21st: Gendler, “The puzzle of imaginative resistance”
Th 23rd: Liao, Strohminger, and Sripada, “Empirically Investigating Imaginative Resistance”

Part 6: Lying and Self-Deception

- Week 8:
T 28th: von Hippel and Trivers, “The evolution and psychology of self-deception”
Th 2nd: von Hippel and Trivers continued

Part 7: Love and Happiness

- Week 9:
T 7th: Protasi, “Loving People for Who They Are (Even When They Don’t Love You Back)”
Th 9th: Kolodny, “Love as Valuing a Relationship”
- Week 10:
T 14th: Rossi and Tappolet, “Virtue, Happiness, and Well-being”
Th 16th: Final Exam study session