

PHIL 451: Moral Psychology
Professor: Matthew Fulkerson
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TTh: 9:30-11 (WLH 2115)
Office Hours: Thurs 3-4
Office: H&SS 873

Course Description:

This course will examine a number of fundamental issues in moral psychology, a field that is at the intersection of traditional philosophical concerns in ethics and contemporary work in psychology and cognitive science. Topics to be addressed in this course include the emotions, moral reasoning, and the freedom of human action. This course will place an emphasis on developing the kind of clear, forceful writing expected in an advanced philosophy course.

Required Texts:

Nadelhoffer *et al*, *Moral Psychology: historical and contemporary readings* (MP)

Course Mechanics:

TED: There is a TED site for the course. All handouts, slides, homework assignments, and supplementary readings will be made available through this site. It is your responsibility to check this site regularly.

Lectures and discussion: I often lecture with slides. 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 TED a few days after lecture. Students are expected to take careful notes and will be help 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 feel free to 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 book and the notes/questions to class. After the first week, a **homework assignment** will be posted to TED and must be turned in at the beginning of

Thursday's class. We will discuss the homework on the following Tuesday. Assignments will be marked in plain English and returned.

Grading:

Essay 1 (6 pgs)	20%
Homework	20%
Essay 2 (6 pgs)	30%
Final	30%

Course Policies:

Students can miss one homework assignment without loss of credit. 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).

Reading Schedule (subject to change):

Week 1: Introduction and background

T: Course mechanics, outline, introduction to moral psychology, names

Th: MP, general introduction; introduction to Part I; Chapter 2 (Hutcheson)

Week 2: Moral Reasoning

T: MP, Ch. 3, 4

Th: MP, Ch. 5, 6

Week 3: Moral Reasoning, Part II

T: MP, Ch. 7, 8

Th: MP, Ch. 9

Week 4: Emotions

T: Readings TBA, available on TED

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Week 5: Altruism

T: MP, introduction to Part II; Ch. 10

First Essay due in Class February 5th

Th: MP, Ch. 11, 12, 13

Week 6: Altruism, Part II

T: MP, Ch. 14, 15

Th: MP, Ch. 17, 17

Week 7: Virtue

T: MP, Introduction to Part III; Ch. 19

Th: MP, Ch. 22, 24

Week 8: Agency

T: MP, Introduction to Part IV; Ch. 25, 26

Th: MP, Ch. 28, 29

Week 9: Agency & Intuition

T: MP, Ch. 30, 31, 32

Second Essay Due in Class March 5th

Th: MP, Introduction to Part V; Ch. 33, 34

Week 10: Moral Intuition

T: MP, Ch. 35, 37

Th: MP, Ch. 38, 39