

PHIL 2550
MORAL PSYCHOLOGY

Term: Fall 2012

Meetings: TTh 2:35-3:55pm

Venue: Mackenzie Building 3380

Instructor: Jordan Dodd

Office: 3A64 Paterson Hall

Office hours: Wednesdays 11:30-2:30pm

Email: jordan_dodd@carleton.ca

1. Course description

This course is an introduction to the core questions of moral psychology. These questions aren't pure moral (or pure ethical) questions. They aren't, for example, about what it is to be moral (or to be good). They also aren't pure psychological questions. They aren't, for example, about the stages of our moral development through childhood. Instead they are philosophical questions that walk a line: they are related to both pure moral questions and pure psychological questions, and so they live in a grey area between those two camps.

Here are some of the questions in moral psychology that we will examine:

Do we ever act altruistically?

What sorts of things, in the broadest sense, motivate our actions?

What is the distinctive value of friendship and loving relationships?

How should we make sense of the idea of having a weak will?

To what extent should we explain someone's virtuous actions by attributing virtuous character traits to him or her?

When should we forgive?

When should we judge others morally responsible for their actions?

We will focus on contemporary work on these and other questions (in philosophy, that means work by people who are still alive, or just died recently).

No prior experience in philosophy is required.

Prerequisite: a course in philosophy or second-year standing.

2. Texts

There's nothing to buy. All of the readings are linked to via cuLearn.

3. Course Requirements

All of the evaluation in this course will involve writing. All the writing will either consist of writing *very very short things* or *pretty short things*. Specifically, the marking scheme is:

10% Mini-papers

3 Essays, each worth 30%

Mini-papers

Six mini-papers (.75-1 page each) are required. These are very brief critical evaluations of arguments in the assigned readings. You can do them whenever you please during the semester, except for the following restrictions:

- (1) You may write no more than one in any given week,
- (2) You must hand in your mini-paper at the start of a class in which we address the reading that your mini-paper addresses (so, mini-papers will not be accepted electronically).

Usually we will spend two days on a reading. In these cases, you may hand in a mini-paper on the reading on either day that we discuss the reading.

See the cuLearn handout on mini-papers for more information about them.

Essays

Three short essays are required. Although the length of the essays is kind of flexible, the main touchstone length should be c.1200 words. We'll talk about these essays when they get closer.

Essay#1 will be assigned on October 2nd ... and is **due October 16th**

Essay#2 will be assigned on October 30th ...and is **due November 13th**

Essay#3 will be assigned on November 29th ... and is **due December 19th**

Submitting Essays – Note!

Essay#1 and **Essay#2** must be submitted as hard copies at the start of class on their respective due dates.

Essay#3 must be submitted electronically through cuLearn by the end of the day on December 19th.

4. Respect

Please be respectful of your classmates (and me!) at all times during classes. This includes, for example, not talking when others are, and – obviously – not espousing any sort of bigoted views. If I feel that you're being disruptive, I'll kick you out.

5. Cell phones

Please turn off your cell phones before class starts. It's really annoying when they make noises during class. If for some reason you're expecting an urgent call, just mention this to me before class.

6. Plagiarism

There will be serious repercussions if I believe that you plagiarised in any of the essays. I will immediately send an incident report to the Dean's Office, which will determine further action.

Be sure that you are familiar with the university plagiarism rules, which can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar, Academic Regulations, section 14.3, pg. 56 – or online: <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>

7. Email

I do generally respond to emails ... but often not quickly. In other words, you shouldn't think of me as being 'on call' via email at all times. One reason to note this is that you *should not* put off contacting me about pressing matters until the last minute. Odds are that last minute emails won't reach my attention in time.

Generally speaking, my office hours, not email, should be used for extra help, questions about material, etc.

8. Feedback

The university asks for your feedback on this course at the end of the semester. That sort of feedback certainly has its place. But it doesn't help me change things on the fly – that is, in ways that will help you, as opposed to helping future students.

So give me feedback: after class, via email, at office hours, around campus, whenever. Tell me that I should go faster or slower on certain material, that such and such topic should be covered in more detail, that our discussion of such and such wasn't clear – or tell me that you think we are going a good speed, that such and such topic was covered in good detail, that our discussion of such and such topic was nice and clear. Either way, feedback is welcome and appreciated!

9. Miscellaneous Info (about formatting, references, and late penalties)

(1) Formatting requirements:

- All mini-papers and essays must be submitted type written, in double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font with 1" margins on all sides.
- Don't put a title page on *anything*
- Put your name, your student number, the course number, and my name at the top of any document that you hand in, like this:

Student's Name, Student Number
Course Number, Course Instructor's Name

(2) Citations:

- Bibliographies and references in footnotes/parenthetical notation are not required for the mini-papers. But they are required for the essays.

(3) Late essays

- Late essays will be penalized one letter step per day late.
- So: If an 'A' paper is submitted a day late, it will receive an 'A-', and if it's submitted two days late, it will receive a 'B+', etc.
- Late essays will be accepted without penalty if, and only if, there are well-documented, legitimate reason.

10. Read the official policies

Various official Carleton University and Department of Philosophy policies are laid out in the 'University Polices' document that is available in the 'Logistics' folder for this course on cuLearn. You are responsible for knowing all of the material that's presented there. That requirement just follows from being a student in this course.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2012-13)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadre/suniv14.html#14.3>)

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

Important Dates:

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| Sept. 6 | Classes start (after Orientation events). |
| Sept. 19 | Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses. |
| Sept. 30 | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses. |
| Oct. 5 | University Day – no classes. |
| Oct. 8 | Thanksgiving Day – university closed. |
| Nov. 19 | Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period. |
| Dec. 3 | Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses. |
| Dec. 3 | Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only). |
| Dec. 4-5 | No classes take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced. |
| Dec. 6-19 | Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. |
| Dec. 19 | Take-home exams are due. |
| Jan. 7 | Winter term classes begin. |
| Jan. 18 | Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes. |
| Jan. 31 | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses. |
| Feb. 18 | Family Day – university closed |
| Feb. 18-22 | Winter Break, classes suspended. |
| Mar. 27 | Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period. |
| Mar. 29 | Good Friday – university closed |
| Apr. 10 | Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses. NOTE: On this day all classes follow a Friday schedule. |
| Apr. 10 | Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only). |
| Apr. 11-12 | No classes take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced. |
| Apr. 13-27 | Final Examinations. |
| Apr. 27 | Take-home exams are due. |

Addresses:

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| Department of Philosophy: | 3A46 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110 |
| Registrar's Office: | 300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500 |
| Student Academic Success Centre: | 302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850 |
| Paul Menton Centre: | 500 University Centre www.carleton.ca/pmc 520-6608 |
| Writing Tutorial Service: | 4 th Floor, Library www.carleton.ca/wts 520-6632 |
| MacOdrum Library | http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735 |