

PHIL 2550
MORAL PSYCHOLOGY

Term: Summer 2014

Meetings: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:05-8:55pm

Venue: Southam Hall 316

Instructor: Jordan Dodd

Office: 3A64 Paterson Hall

Office hours: TBD

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:

- Are there evolutionary reasons to believe that we are psychological egoists?
- What are motivations?
- When is a relationship a friendship?
- Do we have robust character traits?
- What is procrastination?
- What is hope? When should we hope?
- What does it take for forgiveness to occur?
- Is empathy a precondition for moral judgment?

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 *pretty short things* or *very, very short things*. Specifically, the marking scheme is:

90% Essays – 3 essays, each worth 30%
10% Mini-papers – 6 mini-papers, each worth 1.67%

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 Thursday July 17th ... and is **due** on **Friday July 25th**
Essay#2 will be assigned on Thursday July 31st ... and is **due** on **Friday August 8th**
Essay#3 will be assigned on Thursday August 14th ... and is **due** on **Saturday August 23rd**

Note: All essays must be submitted electronically.

Exact submission details for the essays will be discussed when Essay#1 is assigned.

Mini-papers

Six mini-papers (.75-1 page each) are required. These are very brief critical evaluations of theses or arguments in the assigned readings.

You have a lot of flexibility about when to hand in mini-papers. But this flexibility is only within the following framework:

- (1) Each of your 6 mini-papers must be on a different reading.
- (2) You must hand in your mini-paper at the start of a class in which we are scheduled to address the reading that your mini-paper addresses.

Note: Mini-papers will not be accepted electronically.

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

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 is a well-documented, legitimate reason.

10. Read the official policies

Various official Carleton University and Department of Philosophy policies are laid out in the 'University Policies' 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 (Summer 2014)

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/acadregsuniv14.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:

May 5	Classes start.
May 12	Last day for registration and course changes for early summer courses.
May 16	Last day for registration and course changes for full summer courses.
May 19	Statutory holiday, university closed.
May 23	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from early and full summer courses.
June 10	Last day for tests or examinations in early Summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
June 17	Last day for early summer 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 courses that end on this day.
June 17	Last day for academic withdrawal from early summer courses.
June 20-26	Final examinations.
July 1	Statutory holiday, university closed.
July 3	Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.
July 10	Last day for registration and course changes for late summer courses.
July 23	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from late summer courses.
Aug. 4	Statutory holiday, university closed
Aug. 7	Last day for tests or examinations in the late Summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
Aug. 15	Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for late and full summer 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 courses that end on this day.
Aug. 15	Last day for academic withdrawal from late summer and full summer courses.
Aug. 18-23	Final examinations.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 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 http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735