

# PHIL 2550A – MORAL PSYCHOLOGY

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WINTER 2015

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## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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**Prof:** Jason Millar

**Email:** jason.millar@carleton.ca

**Office:** Paterson 3A39

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00

**Contacting Me (your prof):** I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns. The best way to get in touch with me is email. **Be sure to include the following text in the subject line of ALL emails (or email me via cuLearn) or I cannot guarantee your email will get through my filters: “PHIL 2550”.**

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## COURSE INFORMATION

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**Time:** Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:05 – 2:25 pm

**Location:** Mackenzie 3380

**Prerequisite(s):** A course in philosophy or second-year standing.

**Course Website:** I'll be using cuLearn for this course. You must check it and your Carleton email regularly (more than once a week) for important messages, scheduling information, readings, assignment or exam information, and other important information. You will be responsible for keeping current with the information on cuLearn.

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## TA INFORMATION

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TAs will be assigned in the first two weeks of the course. Please check cuLearn for information about their office hours (once they are assigned to the course).

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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As a field of study moral psychology is *interdisciplinary*, in that it brings together philosophers, psychologists, cognitive scientists, and others interested in studying how morality works from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. Indeed, moral psychology in its current form is a blend of philosophical theory, and empirical research: philosophical theory is applied to inform, interpret and question empirical findings, while empirical findings are applied to test various theoretical commitments. This course introduces students to a range of current topics in moral psychology, including: motivation, altruism, moral emotions, rules, moral reasoning, intuitions, and responsibility. Some of the questions that will be considered include: What is a moral judgment? What role do emotions play in morality? What motivates our moral actions? What role do rules play in our moral judgments? Is there such a thing as moral character?

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## COURSE TEXT

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**Required Text:** Doris, J.M. (2010). *The Moral Psychology Handbook*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press). Available at the campus bookstore.

A copy of the textbook is on short-term reserve at MacOdrum Library.

**Other Course Material:** Other readings, videos, and news sources may be assigned throughout the course. Please keep current on cuLearn for any additions to the course readings.

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## PEDAGOGY

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As much as possible, I will be planning classes using a “flipped class” approach in which students support each other in learning activities. In addition, some required material will be delivered via online mini-lectures. Information about online lectures will be available on cuLearn. This means that I will minimize traditional lecturing in favour of a supported, individual and peer learning environment.

It is my expectation that you arrive to class having read the required readings, and completed any assigned online activities. Material that is introduced in class will be fair game on all assignments and exams. It is in your best interest to attend all classes and participate as much as possible. You should arrange to get notes from a friend/colleague if you are unable to attend class in person. My hope is that you come away from this course with an appreciation for the topics, and a genuine interest in pursuing further studies in philosophy.

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## STUDENT EVALUATION

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- 1) **30% Reading Reflections (2 x 15% each) – Students must submit 2 reading reflections during the term, one prior to reading week, and another between reading week and the end of term.**
- 2) **35% Mid-Term Examination.**
- 3) **35% Take-home Final Examination.**

Detailed instructions for all assignments will be posted on cuLearn and will be discussed in class.

Please note that ALL late assignments will be subject to a 5% per day late penalty. Unless specified otherwise, all assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class in HARD COPY, **OR** deposited in the Philosophy department drop-box located across from Paterson Hall 3A35 prior to 4:00 pm on the due date.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

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CLASS SCHEDULE

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Week 1 (Jan 7): Introduction and Syllabus

Week 1 (Jan 9): CH1 – Evolution of Morality

Week 2 (Jan 14/16): CH2 – Multi-System Moral Psychology

Week 3 (Jan 21/23): CH3 – Moral Motivation

Week 4 (Jan 28/30): CH4 – Moral Emotions

Week 5 (Feb 4/6): CH5 – Altruism

Week 6 (Feb 11/13): CH6 – Moral Reasoning

**Wednesday Feb 11: Last day to submit 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Reflection**

Week 7 (Feb 18/20): Reading Week - No Classes

Week 8 (Feb 25): Mid-Term Exam (in-class)

Week 8 (Feb 27): CH7 – Moral Intuitions

Week 9 (Mar 4): CH7 – Moral Intuitions (cont...)

Week 9 (Mar 6): CH8 – Linguistics and Moral Theory

Week 10 (Mar 11/13): CH9 – Rules

Week 11 (Mar 18/20): CH10 – Responsibility

Week 12 (Mar 25/27): CH11 – Character

Week 13 (Apr 1): CH12 – Well-Being

**Wednesday Apr 1: Last Day to submit 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Reflection**

Week 13 (Apr 3): *Good Friday – No Class*

Week 14 (Apr 8): CH12 – Well-Being (cont...)

**Take-Home exam distributed in class.**

**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:
  - 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://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

**Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations 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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send 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 your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	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. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	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. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	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. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	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.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/">http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735