

PHIL 2550A: Moral Psychology
Course Outline
Early Summer 2020

Class Information

Dates: Asynchronous, two lectures per week

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Course prerequisites: One course in philosophy or second year standing.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Josh Redstone

Office: 3A38 Paterson Hall

E-mail: josh.redstone@carleton.ca

Office Hours: See Below

Course Description

This course is an examination of the psychological underpinnings of morality. We begin by outlining a number of moral-theoretical frameworks, and subsequently focus on studies at the intersection of philosophy, psychiatry, cognitive science and psychology.

Required Text

Doris, J.M & The Moral Psychology Research Group. (2010). *The Moral Psychology Handbook*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. You can find this textbook at the campus Bookstore (<https://www.bkstr.com/carletonstore/home>). This book is also available on Amazon. Please note that supplementary readings may be made available on cuLearn as the course progresses.

Accessing Course Resources

Much of the important course material will be available on cuLearn: <https://carleton.ca/culearn/>

Here you will find this course outline, lecture schedule, PowerPoint slides that accompany the lectures, and other supplementary materials that will be made available as we proceed through this course. You will also find the discussion forums, which are a great way for you to ask questions about the course material, share and discuss your own ideas, organize study groups for your tests, and so forth.

Lectures will be posted to my YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBOvpBTtLsP7MMjqOZO67Dq>

Since we will not be meeting in person, I highly recommend everyone watches the lectures I've prepared. Here, I will explain and elucidate key ideas from our readings. Students can ask questions in the video comments section, or in the discussion board on cuLearn.

Office hours will be held virtually using my Discord Server, which you can join by following this link:

<https://discord.gg/NbrGNuD>

Office hours will be held regularly once per week (time and day TBD).

Evaluation

Item	Weight of Grade	Due Date
Take-home Quiz #1	5%	May 15, 11:59 pm
Take-home Quiz #2	5%	May 22, 11:59 pm
Take-home Mid-term Test	35%	May 29, 11:59 pm
Take-home Quiz #3	5%	June 5, 11:59 pm
Take-home Quiz #4	5%	June 15, 11:59 pm
Take-home Exam	45%	June 25, 11:59 pm
TOTAL	100%	---

Lecture Schedule: Note, this schedule may be subject to minor adjustments.

Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
Week 1 Week of May 4	Intro & Course Outline; Overview of Moral Theories	TBA
Week 2 Week of May 11	Evolution of Morality; Multi-System Moral Psychology	Ch. 1; Ch. 2
Week 3 Week of May 18	Moral Motivation; Moral Emotions	Ch. 3; Ch. 4
Week 4 Week of May 25	Altruism; Moral Reasoning	Ch. 5; Ch. 6
Week 5 Week of June 1	Moral Intuitions; Character	Ch. 7; Ch. 11
Week 6 Week of June 8	Well-Being; Race and Racial Cognition	Ch 12; Ch 13
Week 7 Week of June 15	Special Topics Lecture; Take-Home Exam Prep & Wrap-Up	TBA

Take-Home Quizzes

In this course you will complete 5 take-home quizzes, each worth 4% of your grade (for a total of 20%). The quizzes will be available on cuLearn. Each quiz will consist of a number of multiple choice and true/false questions that will cover the material from that week's lectures. For example, your first quiz will feature questions on Week 1 (chapters 1 and 2), and must be completed by the end of Week 2, etc.

Special Topics Lecture

Our final lecture will be on a yet-to-be-determined subject that is related to the core concepts you will learn in this course. The idea here is both to apply what you will learn to something novel, and, to explore beyond the course textbook. The class and the instructor will determine a number of possible topics together, and then the class will vote on which topic the instructor will lecture on. Possible subjects include autonomous cars, morality in nonhuman animals, robo-ethics, etc.

Tests and Examinations

In this course you will complete one mid-term examination and one final examination. The mid-term exam will take place on cuLearn. It is worth 35% of your final grade. Anything covered in class up until the week of the test may appear on the test. The final exam will be a take-home examination. It is worth 45% of your final grade and is due at midnight on the last day of the exam period (June 25 at 11:59 pm). You may use your textbook and your lecture notes to answer the questions on the final exam. The first part of the final exam will

cover material from after the mid-term test to the end of the course. The second part of the final exam contains questions pertaining to a film that you will watch. Here, you must apply what you've learned about the psychological underpinnings of morality to answer questions about the moral problems raised in the film.

Test & Assignment Deferral Policy

Students who are unable to complete a test or an assignment may ask for a deferral only under two conditions: illness or bereavement. Should you miss a test for these reasons, you must contact me by email within 24 hours of missing the test/assignment due date to request a deferral and arrange to provide me with the appropriate documentation (e.g. doctor's note, etc.).

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence, which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor (me). The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

Grading System

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B = 73-76	C - = 60-62
A = 85-89	B - = 70-72	D+ = 57-59
A - = 80-84	C+ = 67-69	D = 53-56
B+ = 77-79	C = 63-66	D - = 50-52

F Failure. No academic credit

DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. Further details can be found on the next page.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 2020)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this summer.

Evaluation:

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.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Examinations:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *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 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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for Student Activities:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

Important Dates:

May 4	Classes start.	July 1	Statutory holiday, University closed.
May 11	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses.	July 2	Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.
May 15	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses.	July 9	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>late</u> summer courses.
May 18	Statutory holiday, University closed.	July 17	Last day to withdraw from <u>late</u> summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
May 22	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>early</u> and <u>full</u> summer courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.	Aug. 3	Civic holiday, University closed
June 9	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>early</u> summer courses before the official examination period.	Aug. 7	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses before the official examination period.
June 16	Last day for <u>early</u> summer classes. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>early</u> summer courses.	Aug. 14	Last day of <u>late</u> and <u>full</u> summer term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline.
June 19-25	Final examinations.	Aug. 17-23	Final examinations.
June 25	Take-home examinations for <u>early</u> summer courses are due.	Aug. 23	Take-home examinations for <u>late</u> or <u>full</u> summer courses are due.

Useful Contacts:

Department of Philosophy: www.carleton.ca/philosophy
520-2110

Registrar's Office: www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre: www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
520-7850

Centre for Student Academic Support: <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
520-3822

Student Support Services : <https://carleton.ca/academics/support/>