

PHIL 5200

Empathy

Winter 2013

Wednesdays 14:35-17:25, Paterson 3A36

Instructor	Heidi Lene Maibom Department of Philosophy Paterson Hall 3A39 613 - 520 3825 heidi_maibom@carleton.ca
Office hours	Fridays 13:00-14:00 or by appointment

Course Description

Empathy is now one of the more researched emotions, with hundreds of papers published every year and dozens of books on its amazing powers. Empathy is thought to be central to understanding other minds, knowing what it's like for someone else, the appreciation of works of art, and morality. In this course we examine the literature on empathy from philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, and anthropology. We will especially focus on the role of empathy in understanding others, in feeling for them, and in moral thought and motivation.

Requirements

Students are expected to attend the weekly meetings. Part of the final grade is participation (10%). Each student will complete 2 small writing assignments on readings for the class (10% each), a midterm essay set by me (20%), and a final paper (50%). The students who have prepared papers on the week's readings, are expected to be able to provide concise summaries of the texts in class. However, the papers themselves should not be summaries of the texts, but should choose a central thesis and discuss it in some detail. Each should be 3 pages. I should get a copy of the paper at the end of class. Midterm assignment is 10 pages. The final paper can be an elaboration of any one of the short papers. It should be 20 pages long. The topic should be discussed in advance with me. Deadline for presenting an outline to me is 5 April. *Final papers will not be accepted without prior consultation within the set deadline.*

Important Dates:

13 February	Deadline for 1st short discussion paper on readings
5 March	Deadline for handing in midterm essay (WebCT, 12 midnight)
3 April	Deadline for 2 nd short discussion paper on readings
5 April	Deadline for discussing final paper with me
27 April	Deadline for handing in final paper (WebCT, 12 midnight)

Academic Policies

See official statement, including statement on plagiarism.

Grading policies

Page nr.: 12 pt. Times New Roman 1.5 spacing or equivalent size.

Unless otherwise stated, use WebCT for submission of papers. Short papers should be a paper copy handed in at the end of class on the day that the paper discussed is assigned. Grading includes grading on writing (grammar and other errors), for which up to 20% can be deducted. Late penalty: 1 point per day late, including weekend days (unless you have come to some other agreement with me).

Class Schedule

- 9 Jan Heidi Maibom: "The many faces of empathy and their relation to prosocial action and aggression." *WIRE Cogn Sc*, 2012, 3:253-63 (on WebCT)
- 16 Jan Stephen Darwall: "Empathy, sympathy, care", *Philosophical Studies*, 89, 261-82.
Alvin Goldman: "Interpretation Psychologized." *Mind & Language*, 4, 161-85.
Marco Iacoboni: "Imitation, empathy, and mirror neurons." *Annual Review of Psychology*, 2009, 60: 653-70. (on his website)
- 23 Jan Daniel Batson, Early, S., and Salvarini, G. Perspective Taking: Imagining How Another Feels versus Imagining How You Would Feel. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 1997, 23: 751-8.
Heidi Maibom: "Knowing Me, Knowing You: Failure to Forecast and the Empathic Imagination." Forthcoming in A. Kind & P. Kung (Eds.) *Knowledge through Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press. (on WebCT)
- 30 Jan Tania Singer & Claus Lamm: "The social neuroscience of empathy", *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences: The Year in Neuroscience 2009*, 1156: 81-96.
Jean Decety: "Dissecting the neural mechanisms mediating empathy", *Emotion Review*, 2011, 3:92-108.
- 6 Feb Daniel Batson, et al.: "Influence of self-reported distress and empathy on egoistic versus altruistic motivation to help". *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 1983, 45: 706-18.
Claus Lamm, C. Daniel Batson, and Jean Decety: "The neural substrate of human empathy: Effects of perspective taking and cognitive appraisal", *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 2007, 19: 42-58.
- 13 Feb Michael Slote: "Ethics, empathy, and mothering", forthcoming in: Heidi Maibom (Ed.) *Empathy and Morality*, New York: Oxford University Press (on WebCT).
Heidi Maibom: "In a different voice?" in: Robyn Bluhm, Anne Jacobson, and Heidi Maibom (Eds.) *Neurofeminism: Issues at the Intersection of Feminist Theory and Cognitive Science*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 56-72 (2012) (also on WebCT) **Midterm assignment**
- ***Winter Break***
- 27 Feb Jesse Prinz: "Is empathy necessary for morality?", in: Amy Coplan & Peter Goldie (Eds.) *Empathy: Philosophical and Psychological Perspectives*, New York: Oxford University Press, 211-229 (2011) (also on his website).
Annti Kauppinen (tba)
- 6 March Robert Blair: A Cognitive Developmental Approach to Morality: Investigating the Psychopath. *Cognition*, 1995, 57: 1-29.
Victoria McGeer: "Varieties of moral agency: lessons from autism (and psychopathy)" in *Moral Psychology* (vol. 3) *The neuroscience of morality: Emotion, disease and development*, ed. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong. MIT Press, 2007. (also available on her website)
Heidi Maibom: "Without Fellow Feeling", in T. Schramme (Ed.): *Being Immoral: Psychopaths and Moral Indifference*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press (2013).
- 13 March **CLASS CANCELLED**
- 20 March Jodi Halpern: "Clinical empathy in medical care", in: Jean Decety (Ed.) *Empathy: From Bench to Bedside*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 229-44 (2012)
Daniel Batson et al.: "Two threats to the common good: Self-interested egoism and empathy-induced altruism", *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 1999, 25: 3-16.
- 27 March TBA
- 3 April Frans de Waal: "Empathy in primates and other mammals", in: Jean Decety (Ed.) *Empathy: From Bench to Bedside*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 87-106 (2012), Kristin Andrews & Lori Gruen (tba).
- 10 April Final discussion

27 April: Deadline for Take-Home Exam

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/univ14.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:

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:

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