

Honours Seminar: Moral Psychology
Semester 2, 2012
Philosophy of Mind and Cognition

In this seminar, we'll cover recent ground in moral psychology. This is a field of study in both philosophy and psychology concerning phenomena that are both psychological and ethical in nature—such as moral judgment, moral motivation, moral responsibility, practical deliberation, intentional action, virtue and vice, character, moral development, and so on. Overarching debates often concern the role of reason versus sentiment in moral judgment and motivation, often dividing along “Humean” vs. “Kantian” lines. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the field, we'll often look to empirical work that addresses these issues (mostly from psychology and neuroscience) in addition to more traditional philosophical research.

The nine seminars will be on Mondays, from 2–4pm in W916, in the first nine weeks of semester.

SCHEDULE

Below is an outline of the topics of the seminars, and the prescribed reading for each week. All readings will be *available in electronic form on Blackboard*.

[MP = *Moral Psychology*, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (ed.), MIT Press, 2008.]

Week 1: Intro/Background/The Metaethical Problem

1. Smith, Michael (1994) Ch. 1 of *The Moral Problem*, Blackwell, pp. 1-15.
2. May, Josh (forthcoming) “Empirical Work in Moral Psychology” *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, pp. 1-12. [Note: Can read throughout semester.]

Week 2: Free Will & Moral Responsibility

1. Fischer et al. (2007) “Brief Intro to Some Terms and Concepts” *Four Views on Free Will*, Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 1-4.
2. Watson, Gary (2003) “Introduction” (excerpt) *Free Will*, Watson (ed.), OUP, pp. 1-5.
3. Nahmias, Eddy (forthcoming). “The Psychology of Free Will” In *The Oxford Handbook on Philosophy of Psychology*, Jesse Prinz (ed.), Oxford University Press.

Week 3: Moral Motivation

1. Roskies, Adina (2003) “Are Ethical Judgments Intrinsically Motivational? Lessons From ‘Acquired Sociopathy’” *Philosophical Psychology* 16, pp. 51–66.
2. Kennett, Jeanette & Fine, Cordelia (2008) “Internalism and the Evidence from Psychopaths and ‘Acquired Sociopaths’” *MP Vol. 3*, pp. 173-190.

Week 4: Moral Judgment – Sentimentalism vs. Rationalism (Part 1)

1. Haidt, Jonathan & Bjorklund, Fredrik (2008) “Social Intuitionists Answer Six Questions about Moral Psychology” *MP Vol. 2*, pp. 181-217.
2. Gerrans, Philip & Kennett, Jeanette (2010) “Neurosentimentalism and Moral Agency” *Mind*, Vol. 119, No. 475, pp. 585-614.

Week 5: Moral Judgment – Sentimentalism vs. Rationalism (Part 2)

1. Nichols, Shaun (2008) “Sentimentalism Naturalized” *MP Vol. 2*, pp. 255-274.
2. Maibom, Heidi (2005) “Moral Unreason: The Case of Psychopathy” *Mind & Language* 20, pp. 237-57.

Week 6: Moral Intuitions - Deontological vs. Consequentialist

1. Greene, Joshua (2008) “The Secret Joke of Kant’s Soul” *MP Vol. 3*, pp. 35-80. [Mikhail commentary optional.]
2. Berker, Selim (2009) “The Normative Insignificance of Neuroscience” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 37, pp. 293-329.

Week 7: Moral Cognition and Innateness

1. Hauser, Marc, Young, Liane, & Cushman, Fiery (2008) “Reviving Rawls’s Linguistic Analogy” *MP Vol. 2*, pp. 107-143.
2. Prinz, Jesse (2008) “Is Morality Innate?” *MP Vol. 1*, pp. 367-406.

Week 8: Folk Psychology & Morality

1. Knobe, Joshua (2010). “Person as Scientist, Person as Moralist.” *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 33:315-329.
2. Also in same PDF: Open Peer Commentaries (at least abstracts) & Knobe’s responses, pp. 329-362.

Week 9: Contractualist Moral Psychology

1. Southwood, Nicholas (2009). “Moral Contractualism” *Philosophy Compass* 4 (6):926-937.
2. Hieronymi, Pamela (2011). “Of Metaethics and Motivation: The Appeal of Contractualism” In R. J. Wallace, R. Kumar & S. R. Freeman (eds.), *Reasons and Recognition: Essays on the Philosophy of T. M. Scanlon*. Oxford University Press, pp. 101-128.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Hurdle Requirements

There are two hurdle requirements for the unit:

1. Attendance and participation in *at least 75% of seminars*, as per the Faculty policy. This includes coming to the seminars well prepared to participate in the discussion, by having completed the prescribe reading each week.
2. You must not fail any of the assignments.

Students who fail one of the hurdle requirements will have their grade for the unit capped at 48%.

Assessment Tasks

The assessment structure can be summarized as follows:

- Essay (4500 words), due ~~Friday 2 Nov. Monday 5 November~~, 100%

More detail on the assessment tasks below.

The Faculty of Arts policies can be found at:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/policies/group-project-work.php>

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/policies/oral-assessment.php>

Participation

Attendance and participation in at least 75% of tutorials is a hurdle requirement for this unit.

Note Well: As part of participation, you will also be expected to come to the seminar meeting with an issue to raise about at least one of the readings. *You should have something written down beforehand.* This can amount to merely raising an interesting question or worry for one or more aspects of the reading for that week.

The Faculty of Arts Tutorial Attendance Policy can be found at:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/policies/tutorial-attendance.php>

Essay

Due Date: Fri. 2 Nov. ~~Monday 5 November~~

Details of task: The essay is an opportunity to write an extended response to some of the philosophical controversies we have encountered in the seminars. Students may devise their own topics, but the proposed topic must be approved by the lecturer.

Release dates (where applicable): NA

Word limit (where applicable): 4500 words

Value: 100%

Presentation requirements: For information and advice on the preparation and writing of philosophy essays go to: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/philosophy/ugrad/resources.php>

Individual Assessment in Group Tasks (where applicable): NA

Criteria for Marking: For information on the marking criteria for philosophy essays go to: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/philosophy/ugrad/resources.php>