



PHIL*3290 Advanced Ethical Theory

Fall 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 08, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course focuses on the theoretical foundations of morality. Ethical theory comprises metaethics, which is primarily concerned with the objectivity of moral judgments; normative ethics, which is concerned with the principles of sound moral judgment, and moral psychology, which is concerned with moral motivation and moral reasoning.

Pre-Requisites: 1.50 credits in Philosophy or 7.50 credits

1.2 Course Description

This course surveys some core issues in the growing interdisciplinary field of moral psychology: What is morality, and where did it come from? What is the relationship between moral philosophy and empirical psychology? What is moral motivation? What role do emotions play in the moral life? Under what conditions are people morally responsible? Are there self-interested reasons for people to be moral?

Given the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, this course will not meet face to face. Most of the material for this class will be asynchronous and self-paced (i.e. traditional-style lectures will not always take place "live," at the scheduled class time). However, there will be some completely optional "live" components to the course, which will be recorded and made available for everyone. These recordings, videos, readings, notes, and assignments will be posted on CourseLink. To be perfectly clear: Any "live" component is not required, and there will be no penalty for not attending.

The course "meeting time" will remain on the schedule so that it will be easier for you to socialize with your classmates, schedule meetings to work on group projects for the class,

and also to meet with the instructor.

1.3 Timetable

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor and/or Courselink for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

The final assignment for this course is Research Paper, due during Finals Week

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Joshua Skorburg
Email:	skorburg@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x56464
Office:	MCKN 336

2.2 Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant:	Richard Valliere
Email:	rvallier@uoguelph.ca

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Tiberius, Valerie. *Moral psychology: A contemporary introduction*. Routledge, 2014. ISBN: 9780415529693 (Textbook)

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- To provide students with time and space to step back from their everyday practices to reflect on the nature of science, morality, and their interrelations.
 - To provide students with familiarity in theoretical and empirical work on morality.

- To provide students with examples of, and practice in, sustained analytical reflection on theoretical and empirical questions about morality.
 - To provide students with the presentation skills (both written and spoken) necessary to meaningfully engage across disciplinary boundaries in the sciences and humanities.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Topics:

*always check CourseLink for most up-to-date information on scheduling, readings, assignments, etc.

Pre-class assignment: "Intro" Flipgrid due Friday, September 11

Week 1: Monday, September 14 & Wednesday, September 16 - What is moral psychology?

Readings

- Tiberius, Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-27)

Presentations:

- None

Assignments:

- "Intro" Flipgrid 1 due Friday, September 11
- "Social" Weekly Response 1 Due Thursday, Sept. 16

Week 2: Monday, September 21 & Wednesday, September

23 - Motivation

Readings:

- Tiberius Chapter 3 (pp. 29-44)

Presentations:

- Group 1

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 2 Due Monday, September 21 **by 10 AM**
- Flipgrid Response 2 Due Thursday, September 24 **by 10 AM**

Week 3: Monday, September 28 & Wednesday, September 30 – Desires and Reasons

Readings:

- Tiberius, Chapter 4 (pp. 46-65)
- Schroeder, T. (2006). Desire. *Philosophy Compass*, 1 (6), 631-639.

Presentations:

- Group 2

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 3 Due Monday, September 28 **by 10**

AM

- Flipgrid Response 3 Due Thursday, October 1 **by 10**

AM

**Week 4: Monday, October 5 & Wednesday, October 7 –
Emotion and Moral Judgement**

Readings:

- Tiberius, Chapter 5 (pp. 67-86)

Presentations:

- Group 3

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 4 Due Monday, October 5 **by 10 AM**
- Flipgrid Response 4 Due Thursday, October 8 **by 10 AM**

**Week 5: NO CLASS Monday, October 12 (Fall Break);
Wednesday, October 14: MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED**

Readings: NONE

Presentations: NONE

Assignments: **MIDTERM distributed Wednesday, October 14, Due Friday, October 16.**

Week 6: Monday, October 19 & Wednesday, October 21 – Moral Emotions

Readings:

- Strohminger, N. (2014). Disgust talked about. *Philosophy Compass*, 9(7), 478-493.
- Cherry, M. & Flanagan, O. (2018). Introduction to *The Moral Psychology of Anger* (25 pages)

Presentations:

- Group 4

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 5 due Monday, October 19 **by 10 AM**
- Flipgrid Response 5 due Thursday, October 22 **by 10 AM**

Week 7: Monday, October 26 & Wednesday, October 28 – Sentimentalism and Rationalism

Readings:

- Tiberius Chapter 6
- Haidt, J. (2001). The emotional dog and its rational tail: A social intuitionist approach to moral judgment. *Psychological review*, 108(4), 814-830.

Presentations:

- Group 5

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 6 due Monday, October 26 **by 10 AM**
- Flipgrid Response 6 due Thursday, October 29 **by 10 AM**

**Week 8: Monday, November 2 & Wednesday, November 4 -
Virtue**

Readings:

- Tiberius Chapter 7
- Gladwell (2015). The engineer's lament. *The New Yorker*

Presentations:

- Group 6

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 7 due Monday, November 2 **by 10 AM**
- Flipgrid Response 7 due Thursday November 5 **by 10 AM**

**Week 9: Monday, November 9 & Wednesday, November 11
– Agency and Responsibility**

Readings:

- Tiberius Chapters 8-9

Presentations:

- Group 7

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 8 due Monday, November 9 **by 10 AM**
- Flipgrid Response 8 due Thursday November 12 **by 10 AM**

Week 10: Monday, November 16 & Wednesday, November 18 - Why be moral?

Readings:

- Tiberius Chapter 10
- Nussbaum, M. C. (2001). Adaptive preferences and women's options. *Economics & Philosophy*, 17(1), 67-88.

Presentations:

- Group 8

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 9 due Monday, November 16 **by 10 AM**
- Flipgrid Response 9 due Thursday, November 19 **by 10 AM**

Week 11: Monday, November 23 & Wednesday, November 25 – Moral Epistemology

Readings:

- Tiberius Chapter 11
- Sinnott-Armstrong, W. (2008). Framing moral intuitions

Presentations:

- Group 9

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 10 due Monday, November 23 **by 10 AM**
- Flipgrid Response 10 due Thursday, November 26 **by 10 AM**

Week 12: Monday, November 30 & Wednesday, December 2 – Ought and Is

Readings:

- Tiberius Chapter 12
- Flanagan, O. (2016). Moral psychologies and moral ecologies (32 pages).

Presentations:

- Group 10

Assignments:

- Weekly Response 11 due Monday, November 30 **by 10 AM**
 - Flipgrid Response 11 due Thursday, December 3 **by 10 AM**
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6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

1. **Weekly Responses (20% of final grade)**
 2. **Group Presentation (20% of final grade)**
 3. **Flipgrid Responses (10% of final grade)**
 4. **Mid-term Essay Exam (20% of final grade)**
 5. **Final Research paper (30% of final grade)**
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7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for

Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance

and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

7.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

7.10 Illness

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.
