

PSY420H5F

Moral Psychology

Monday 3:00pm – 6:00pm
NE 3160 (New North Building)

Contact Information

Prof. Jennifer Stellar

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Office: Deerfield Hall 4022

Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-3:00pm

Teaching Assistant:

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Course Description

In recent years psychologists have begun to add their perspective to long-standing debates within philosophy, religion, politics, and law about fundamental questions related to morality. How do we decide what is right and wrong? How do moral disagreements create tension within society? How do we respond to those who have transgressed and can we forgive them? What are moral exemplars? The goal of this course is to survey the research within psychology that aims to answer these questions. By the end of this course students will understand the primary issues in the empirical study of morality from a psychological perspective.

Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Canvas; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Canvas. If you have any general questions regarding Canvas, please visit the following help site: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670/pages/student-quercus-guide>

Reading Material

Please read the assigned articles BEFORE coming to class. The articles will primarily be original scientific research along with some reviews. All articles are available to you through Quercus. Remember completing readings is mandatory.

Course Evaluation

1. **Presentation:** (20% of your grade). In class presentation once during the semester in groups of 2-3. The presentation is a summary and synthesis of an article that only your group will have read. You will teach the rest of the class about what the article was about and lead a class discussion of it.
2. **Reaction papers** (15% of your grade). You will be expected to submit 5 out of 6 brief reaction papers (300-500 words) during the course of the semester. NO summaries, just your thoughts and reactions to the article.
3. **Final Paper:** (50% of your grade). At the end of the semester you will turn in an 8-10 page research proposal paper. Deadlines for pieces of the paper (e.g., an outline) will be due throughout the semester.
4. **Participation:** (15% of your grade). Taking part in discussions and sending questions about articles the night before.

Course Webpage

I have created an email account specifically for the course: **moralpsychologyseminar@gmail.com**. If you have any questions please use this email.

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Quercus; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

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IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES ****PLEASE READ****

Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request directly to the Instructor for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) must be submitted to the Psychology Academic Counselor or dropped off in the drop box located outside the Psychology office Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students are expected to submit requests to the Department before the last day of the term, unless demonstrably serious reasons prevent them from doing so. In the event of an illness, medical

certificates or doctor's notes must confirm that student was ill on the due date of the assignment (for a one-day extension). For a longer extension, documentation must specify the full duration during which academic work could not be carried out.

For extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions>

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/>.

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

AccessAbility Services

Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847.

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the university's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the university itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with -- and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Please take the time to review the Academic Integrity website: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/students>.

- Common trends in academic offences:
- Plagiarizing/concocted references
- Collaboration/unauthorized assistance
- Purchasing work
- Recycling work - "double-dipping"
- Resubmitting of altered work for re-grading
- Electronic devices (cell phones) or any unauthorized aids
- Altering medical certificates and UofT documents

From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: "It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly: represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known." All students must refer to this website to obtain information on what constitutes plagiarism. <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

If questions arise after reading the material on the website, consult your instructor.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth 25% or more in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

Course Outline

Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before.

Date	Guiding Question	Article	Due Date
9/10	What is morality?	No readings	
9/17	What are the foundations of morality?	Graham, Haidt, & Nosek, 2009	Reaction paper
9/24	How are moral attitudes different?	Skitka, Bauman, & Sargis, 2005	Reaction paper
10/1	How do moral attitudes develop and change?	Rozin, 1999 & Feinberg & Willer 2013	Reaction paper
10/8	Fall Break: No Class		
10/15	How do people reason through moral dilemmas?	Conway & Gawronski, 2013	Ideas for Paper Due
10/22	How do emotions influence moral reasoning?	Greene et al., 2001 & Horberg, Oveis, & Keltner, 2011	Reaction paper
10/29	Eww! Spotlight on disgust	Haidt, Koller, & Dias, 1993	Annotated Bibliography
11/5	Can moral reasoning be motivated?	Uhlmann, Pizarro, Tannenbaum, & Ditto, 2009	Reaction paper
11/12	How do we judge others?	Goodwin, Piazza, & Rozin, 2014	Outline of paper
11/19	What is moral identity?	Aquino & Reed, 2002	Reaction paper
11/26	What happens when we misbehave?	Sachdeva, Iliev, & Medin, 2009	Abstract due
12/3	Can we make people more moral?	Haley & Fessler, 2005	Final Paper Due