

PSY/PHI 283: Moral Psychology

Fall 2020, Session 1

Instructor Information

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<i>Office Phone:</i>	610-921-7707	610-921-7734

Office Hours with Dr. Abrams and Dr. Ungson

You have two opportunities to meet with us to ask questions, go over course material, or anything else:

1. **Every Tuesday, 4pm-5pm:** We will both be in a Zoom meeting
 - a. [Click here to join these office hours](#) (this link will also be available on Canvas)
2. **We are more than happy to set up appointments**, so please email us if you'd like to meet!

In-Person Class Meetings

- Synchronous in-person meetings will be every Wednesday, 1pm – 2:15pm OR 2:30pm-3:45pm
- **Check Canvas to find out which section you are in!**
- Classroom: Teel 114

Course Format

This is a **hybrid** course. This means the course contains both online and in-person components. Online lecture content will be delivered via videos posted on Canvas, containing interactive quizzing. All exams will be online, except the final exam. Additional discussion and activities will take place in our in-person class meetings, 75 minutes a week.

Generally, there are two due dates per week: **Tuesday at 11:59pm** and **Thursday at 11:59pm**.

Course Description

This course will explore human morality from both a philosophical and psychological perspective. We will ask the "Big Questions" about the nature of morality, what it means to be a good person, and why some people act in evil ways. We will also examine how thinkers—both in philosophy and psychology—have attempted to answer those questions. Specific topics include where morality comes from, how we make moral judgments, empathy and altruism, and the evolutionary origin of morality, among others! By the end of this class, you will hopefully be able to think more deeply about some of life's most important questions: What is morality? How should we act? Why do we act the way we do?

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the historical context of how our understanding of morality has changed over time, in the fields of both philosophy and psychology
- Understand how moral worldviews are different across and within culture
- Describe and explain how philosophical and psychological ideas are tested using the scientific method
- Understand the main theories of morality in psychology (e.g., moral foundations theory)

Required Materials

- **Book:** Haidt, J. (2012). *The righteous mind*. New York: Pantheon.

- **Canvas:** All course information, additional readings, syllabus, etc., will be posted on [Canvas](#)
- **Zoom:** All office hours meetings will take place via [Zoom](#)

Succeeding in this Course

We are confident that you are capable of succeeding in this class. **You will give yourself the best opportunity to succeed if you:**

- Attend all in-person class meetings
- Check our Canvas site at least 3 days a week, and read all course announcements.
- Submit all assignments by the due date.
- Check your Albright email *regularly* and respond promptly if contacted by us
- Watch all video lectures and take notes
- Submit all assignments on time
- Study in advance for exams
- Reach out to Dr. Abrams and/or Dr. Ungson when you need support

A note about technology

There is a heavy computer/web component to this course. It is therefore necessary that each student have an active Albright computer network account, and that if any problems develop with the use of this account, it is the student's responsibility to take immediate action and bring the problem to the [Help Desk](#).

Assignments and Grading

The entire course, and thus your final grade, consists of **1000 points**. Below, we describe the components of your final grade and how much each component is worth:

Grading Breakdown: 1000 Points Total

Item	Number	Points	Total points	Percent
In-Class Participation	7 weeks	15	105	10.5%
Quizzes	7 weeks	25	175	17.5%
Paper 1	1	100	100	10%
Paper 2	1	130	130	13%
Paper 3	1	130	130	13%
Exams	3	120	360	36%

Grade Assignment (based on percentage of total points earned in the course):

A	93%+	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	<60%

Exams

There will be a total of three non-cumulative exams. The format will be multiple choice and short answer. You will take the exams online, during a 90 minute interval of your choice within

the **one-day long window**. In other words, exams will be “available” from 12:01am to 11:59pm on Exam Day, and you will have 90 minutes to complete the exam once you “begin”.

All exams will be “open book”. However, you should be prepared to move through the exam quickly in order to complete the questions within the 90 minute time period. All students are expected to take the exams within the specified time window. Please notify us in advance if you cannot take the exam in the specified window. If you miss an exam for other unforeseeable reasons, please contact us as soon as possible via email.

Quizzes

You will complete a quiz each week on Canvas. These will be multiple choice quizzes, designed to prepare you for the exam. These may be in the form of quizzes as part of lecture videos, or as separate quizzes.

Papers

During the course of the semester, you will write three papers. Details about each paper are provided on Canvas and will be discussed in class closer to the due dates.

In-Person Class Participation

Students must attend all synchronous -- Wednesday in-person meetings and any Monday Zoom class -- meetings (15 points per week). Points are awarded based on attendance and quality of participation. Your participation grade will be based on your contributions to class discussions and activities. For those of you who are less inclined to speaking in front of large groups, there will be ample opportunities to participate in other activities. Note that attention is part of this grade, so sleeping, or texting during class will count as non-participation. **Please see “Policies Relating to COVID-19” below for information about what to do if you miss class due to possible COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosis.**

Extra Credit

Students may earn extra credit by completing **up to 20 points’ worth of online studies during the semester**. You cannot participate in the same experiment twice. Please note that extra credit is **contingent upon the availability of studies** in the Psychology Department. See below for point allocation of online studies based on credit/length of study:

- 4 pts. for each 1-credit study
- 8 pts. for each 2-credit study
- 12 pts. for each 3-credit study

Late Policies

- **Quizzes and Papers** will be penalized 10% per day late, for a maximum late penalty of 50%. For example, a paper that is submitted 6 days late will be penalized 50%; so if that paper *should* have received a score of 80%, it will receive a score of 40% (80% of 50% = 40%).
- You cannot take an exam late without arrangements with us. You must let us know if you are unable to take an exam on the scheduled date ***before the exam*** -- we will then work with you to schedule a make-up exam as soon as possible after the original exam date.

Policies Relating to COVID-19

COVID-19 Absence Policies

Students are encouraged to work directly with their instructors regarding any absences. For absences related to COVID-19, please adhere to the following:

- **Do not come to class if you are sick.** Please protect your health and the health of others by staying home. Contact your healthcare provider or the [Gable Health Center](#) if you believe you are ill. In particular, if you have any [symptoms of COVID-19](#), please do not come to class.
- If you are absent from class as a result of a COVID-19 diagnosis or quarantine, as instructor we will do the following to help you continue to make progress in the course: You must email us to notify us of the absence and we will assign an alternate assignment to count for participation credit. The final decision for approval of all absences and missed work is determined by the instructor.

If your psychological health is compromised due to the pandemic and how it may affect other family members and other close associates, you are encouraged to contact the [counseling services](#) on campus and to discuss options for a modified assignment schedule similar to that outlined above.

Social Distancing

In class as well as on and off campus, maintain social distance of at least six feet; replace shaking hands, hugs and physical touching with verbal appreciation. Please be aware of social distancing with waiting for, entering, and exiting classes.

Masks and Face Shields

Proper wearing of a mask/shield is required in all classes at Albright College. All students must wear a mask/shield that covers both nose and mouth [as recommended by the CDC](#), both inside buildings (at all times) and outside of campus buildings when within six feet of another person. Students who do not wear a mask/shield properly will be asked to leave class and be reported to the Dean of Students. If you are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, you must get formal accommodations by contacting Sherry Young, Director of Student Accessibility and Advocacy, by email at SAA@albright.edu or by phone at 610-921-7503

Office Hours

The current pandemic has led us to adjust how we go about office hours, and we ask that you read and respect these guidelines—for your own health as well as the health of the community. Faculty offices are small and do not permit for adequate physical (social) distancing. Please see the office hours noted on this syllabus and note that for this semester, office hours will be held through zoom. You may access the link office link on Canvas in the Start Here module and the zoom office link appears on this syllabus. I also request that you contact me through email if you need to meet outside of office hours and avoid trying to set up meeting times before or after our class. We will need to leave our classroom promptly, in order to avoid a “bottleneck” as a new class enters. We also need to allow adequate time for cleaning in between classes. Thank you in advance for supporting this policy! Please do not hesitate to meet with me—I am here to support you and help you be successful in this course!

Course Changes

Please note that if we move online, there may be adjustments to the nature of our scheduled synchronous in-person meetings.

Student Services

Gingrich Library

The Gingrich Library provides resources to assist Albright students with their class projects and research needs. Located in the Center for Computing and Mathematics, the library offers access to its entire catalog of print materials and DVDs as well as an extensive collection of e-books,

electronic journals and databases all available from on-campus, in residence halls or off-campus. A small browsing library and college computers are located in the building. Reference librarians are available to answer questions and help students use resources and find appropriate materials. Students are encouraged to contact a librarian at any stage of the research process. Real-time chat services are available through the library's portal at the library's main page (<http://library.albright.edu>)

Academic Learning Center

The Academic Learning Center (ALC) offers various resources to assist Albright students with their academic success. Students have academic support resources available to them at no charge. The ALC offers course-specific peer tutoring for many general education classes at the 100-200 level. You can request a tutor at this link:

www.albright.edu/academics/tutor_request_form.php. For upperclass students, the ALC offers one-on-one academic coaching on study skills, time management, note-taking, and learning strategies. (The Student Success Specialists offer coaching for first-year students.) The ALC office is located in Teel 309A and the ALC Tutoring Lab is accessible from the tunnel near Jake's Place. Contact the ALC at 610-921-7662 and academiclearningcenter@albright.edu.

Writing Center

You are encouraged to work with the Writing Center early and often to help build a strong foundation for writing in this course and in all of your courses. The center's peer tutors and director will work with you at any stage of the writing process, from developing and organizing ideas to revising and editing drafts. Tutors are also available to discuss and practice approaches to managing the college reading workload and reading more effectively. The center is located in Student Center Classroom 1, on the lower level near the mailroom and can be reached at writingcenter@albright.edu. For online chat sessions (with a whiteboard for revision and options for audio-video or type chat), use our appointment system at <http://alb.mywconline.com>. For e-mail-based feedback, you can submit an essay using this form: <https://www.albright.edu/about-albright/offices-departments/writing-center/essay-feedback-form/>.

The Writing Center may not be available during some holiday breaks.

Office of Student Accessibility and Advocacy

Consistent with the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Albright College welcomes students with disabilities into the college's educational programs. If you need impairment-related academic adjustments in this course, please contact Sherry Young, Director of Student Accessibility and Advocacy, by email at SAA@albright.edu or by phone at 610-921-7503. Our office is located in the Student Center Conference Room. Students should contact the office to schedule an appointment. Students who use accommodations should meet with course instructors privately and in a timely manner to discuss their Academic Accommodation Letter (AAL). *Please note that IEPs and 504 plans do not apply to college-level courses*

Academic Dishonesty

The policies of the College regarding academic dishonesty can be found on the College's website at <http://www.albright.edu/catalog/academicpolicies.html>. Please read these policies as it applies to all facets of this course. Please become aware as to what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Course Schedule

Week 1: 8/17 - 8/21

- **Haidt, Introduction, Chapter 1**
- Other readings, videos on Canvas

Week 2: 8/24 - 8/28

- **Moral philosophy**
- Spaemann, "Good and Evil"
- Vaughn *Doing Ethics*, Chapters 1-2, 4
- Nagel, "Right and Wrong" (from *What Does it All Mean?*)
- Videos on Canvas
- Friday, 8/28: PAPER 1 Due

Week 3: 8/31 - 9/4

- **Haidt, Chapters 2, 3, 4**
- Pizzaro & Bloom, "Intelligence of Moral Intuitions"
- Videos on Canvas
- Friday, 9/4: EXAM 1

Week 4: 9/7 - 9/11

- Vaughn, *Doing Ethics*, Chapter 5 ("Consequentialism")
- Greene, *Moral Tribes*, Chapter 4 ("Trolleyology"), Chapter 5 (Efficiency, Flexibility, and the Dual Process Brain")
- Videos on Canvas
- Friday, 9/11: PAPER 2 Due

Week 5: 9/14 - 9/18

- **Haidt, Chapters 5-8**
- Videos on Canvas
 - Haidt TED Talk
 - Lecture (Abrams): "Liberalism, Conservatism, Harm"
- Yourmorals.org quiz
- Schein & Gray, "Theory of Dyadic Morality"
- Friday, 9/18: EXAM 2

Week 6: 9/21 - 9/25

- **Haidt, Chapters 9, 10**
- Okasha, "Biological Altruism" (selections)
- Buss, "Cooperative Alliances"
- Prisoner's Dilemma Activity
- Other readings, videos on Canvas

Week 7: 9/28 - 10/2

- **Haidt, Chapters 11, 12**
- Empathy-Altruism Hypothesis (textbook chapter)
- Buchanan & Powell, "Morality Evolved but it isn't Fixed"
- Videos on Canvas
- Friday, 10/2: EXAM 3

Finals Week: 10/5 - 10/6

- PAPER 3 Due (Exact date: TBA)