**Phil/Psy 348: The Moral Mind, Spring 2018**

Instructor: Robert Wallace, rhwallace@email.arizona.edu

Office Hours: Social Sciences Room 130 on T: 10-11:30, W: 2-3:30, or by appointment.

The information contained in this course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the moral mind from the neuroscientific, philosophical and psychological perspectives. Many traditional philosophical problems about morality are being illuminated by current work in psychology and neuroscience. In this course, we will look at several of these problems. In each case, we will begin with a presentation of the philosophical problems, and we will proceed to examine recent empirical work on the topic. A wide range of topics will be covered, including moral judgment, agency, the self, and punishment.

The goal of the course is to provide you with the tools to think critically, for yourself, about these issues. It is not my job to tell you what to think!

**Required Text:**

Nadelhoer, Nahmias, & Nichols (eds.), Moral Psychology: Historical and Contemporary Readings (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)

Additional assigned readings will be posted on D2L.

**Outline of the Course:**

This is an online course. Content for the course will be available to you 24/7, with each week’s material available during that week and afterwards. There is no specific time that you need to access the lectures. As such, each week you will be expected to do the following:

1. Do the readings.

(2) Watch the lectures for that week. Typically, there will be two short video lectures, one by myself and one by Professor Shaun Nichols (he’s an expert on moral psychology and you’ll notice he is an editor of the required textbook).

(3) Finish the assignment for that week by 11:59PM on Sunday of that week. Normally that will mean taking a quiz on that week’s material. The week that the first paper is due, the midterm is due, the final paper is due, and exam week you will not have quizzes. Instead, those assignments will be due by the end of the week.

(4) Post to the discussion forum.

Tip: **DO NOT PROCRASTINATE*.*** You will not be able to get all of the readings done and watch the lectures the last few days of the week in time for the quiz. You should certainly get to work on papers before the week they are due (I will post the prompts in advance). Be sure to pace yourself! Traditional classroom habits are still essential for online courses: note taking, keeping up with the readings and lectures, and actively participating in discussions online will all help you succeed in this course.

**Grading and Assignments:**

Syllabus Acceptance and Academic Integrity Pledge: Before I record any grades for any student in this course, he or she must download, sign, and upload the “acknowledgement of the syllabus form” and the “UA pledge of academic integrity” into the assignments folder on D2L. The form can be found in the “Week 1 Introduction” page on D2L.

Grade Breakdown:

Discussion 10%

Quizzes 15%

Paper 1 15%

Midterm Exam 15%

Paper 2 20%

Final Exam 25%

Discussion: As this is an online course, classroom participation will occur in on online forum on D2L. I will post a prompt for you to discuss. You may respond to my prompt or the comments and questions of your classmates.

Quizzes: The quizzes will be about the readings and lectures from this week. They will be open book. I will drop the lowest quiz grade.

Papers: There are two assigned papers to write for this course. The first paper is a response to one of the assigned articles. The second paper will be an argumentative essay.

Exams: Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer sections. The midterm will be held on March 4th. The final exam will be held on May 6th.

Late Work: Work that is handed in after the day after the deadline has passed will be marked down one full letter grade, and so on. For instance an A paper that is received within 24 hours of the deadline will receive a B, 48 hours late will receive a C, and so on. Students with an officially documented excuse will be exempt from this policy with permission from the instructor. The following *do not count* as legitimate excuses: failure to read the syllabus, sleeping in, or forgetfulness.

Rounding and Curving: I will round grades up by .5, so that a 79.5 will earn a B while a 69.5 will earn a C, and so on. I will do no other rounding. 79.4s will not be rounded up. No grades will be curved in the course. However, as things move forward, I reserve the right to curve when needed. Please do not rely on this possibility!

**Online Behavior:**

As in any course, you must be respectful to myself and the other students during this class. The online discussion forum is a place where thoughts can be expressed without fear of bullying, discrimination, or threats. This is especially true when we do philosophy. You will have disagreements with your fellow students, perhaps over some of your deepest beliefs. But you must always respect your classmates. All criticisms should be directed at ideas, not at persons.

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>. The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See h[ttp://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity).The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at <http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>.

Ignorance of the academic integrity policies is not a viable excuse.

Bottom line: please do your own work and cite generously. If you have any questions about the policy, for instance, about what would or would not constitute a violation (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) please do not hesitate to ask me!

**Accessibility and Accommodations:**

Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit [http://drc.arizona.edu](http://drc.arizona.edu/). If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

**Issues with Course Technology:**

As this course will be conducted entirely through the University of Arizona’s online platform D2L, you may experience technical issues during the course. If this happens, please let me know and then get help. For issues involving course material on D2L please just contact me. If you experience other problems, please contact one of the technical help resources listed below after letting me know.

For general technical help:

The 24/7 IT Support Center: (520) 626-8324

http://the247.arizona.edu

For help with D2L:

Contact: (520) 626-6804; (520) 621-3898

http://help.d2l.arizona.edu

**Confidentiality**

Please see: <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>

**Incompletes and Withdrawals**

Requests for incompletes (I) and withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with university policies. Please see: [http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/grade.htm - I](http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/grade.htm#I) or [http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/grade.htm - W](http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/grade.htm#W)

**Policy on for-profit note-taking**

There are a number of organizations that sell notes from classes to students Using these services is strictly prohibited in this class. Anyone found to be engaged in selling or buying such notes will be in violation of the rules of academic integrity for this course. According to Section D (6) (a) of the University’s Intellectual Property Policy (which is available at [http://www.ott.arizona.edu/uploads/ip\_policy.pdf),](http://www.ott.arizona.edu/uploads/ip_policy.pdf%29%2C) faculty own the intellectual property for their course notes and course materials. The instructor of a course holds the copyright to his/her lectures and course materials, including student notes or summaries that substantially reflect them. Student notes and course recordings are for individual use or for shared use on an individual basis. Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor’s express written consent. Violations to the instructor’s copyright are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA email to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student email addresses.

**Outline of the Course:**

**Week 1: Introduction**

**Complete by 1/14**

Readings: Introduction from the textbook, from textbook (pp. 2-3)

 Section 1 of the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy “Moral Psychology” (D2L)

Lectures: Syllabus Video, An Introduction to Moral Theory/Moral Psychology

 Nichols Introduction

Assignments: Sign and return the acknowledgement of the syllabus form

 Sign and return the and pledge of academic integrity

**Week 2: Philosophy on Reason and Passion**

**Complete by 1/21**

Readings: Read: Clarke and Hutcheson chapters 1-3 from textbook (pp. 11-31)

 Gill, "Moral Rationalism vs. Moral Sentimentalism" (D2L)

Lectures: Week 2 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 2 Quiz

**Week 3: Psychology on Reason and Passion**

**Complete by 1/28**

Readings: Nichols chapter 9 from textbook (pp.73-84)

Lectures: Week 3 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 3 Quiz

**Week 4: Moral Intuitions**

**Complete by 2/4**

Readings: Thomson chapter 35 from textbook (pp. 327-334)

Lectures: Week 4 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 4 Quiz

**Week 5: Emotions and Moral Judgment**

**Complete by 2/11**

Readings: Greene chapter 38 from textbook (pp. 359-372)

Lectures: Week 5 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 5 Quiz

 Paper 1 assigned

**Week 6: Philosophy on Altruism and Egoism**

**Complete by 2/18**

Readings: Plato and Hobbes chapters 10 and 11 from textbook (pp. 93-102)

Lectures: Week 6 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 6 Quiz

**Week 7: Psychology on Altruism and Egoism**

**Complete by 2/25**

Readings: Batson and Sober & Wilson chapters 14 and 16 from textbook (pp. 117-123, pp. 135- 147)

Lectures: Week 7 Lectures

Assignments: Finish Paper 1

**Week 8: Personal Identity**

**Complete by 3/4**

Readings: Section 1 and 2 of SEP entry on personal identity and ethics (D2L)

 Strohminger & Nichols "Neurodegeneration" (D2L)

Lectures: Week 8 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

**Week 9: Spring Break, Midterm**

Readings: None

Lectures: Review Lectures

Assignments: Midterm, **Complete by 3/5**

**Week 10: Is Morality Objective? Philosophy**

**Complete by 3/18**

Readings: Shafer-Landau "Moral Realism" (D2L)

Harman "Moral Relativism Defended" (D2L)

Lectures: Week 10 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 10 Quiz

 **Week 11: Is Morality Objective? Psychology**

**Complete by 3/25**

Readings: Joyce "Evolution of Morality" pp. 202-211 (D2L)

Wright "The Cognitive Mechanisms of Intolerance" (D2L)

Sarkissian et al " Folk Moral Relativism" (D2L)

Lectures: Week 11 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 11 Quiz

 **Week 12: Moral Luck**

**Complete by 4/1**

Readings: Excerpts from Nelkin's SEP entry on Moral Luck (D2L)

Young, Nichols, Saxe "Investigating Neural and Cognitive Basis of Moral Luck"

(D2L)

Lectures: Week 12 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 12 Quiz

**Week 13: Free Will and Neuroscience**

**Complete by 4/8**

Readings: Wegner & Wheatley chapter 29 of textbook (pp.264- 275)

Mele Chapter 32 of textbook (pp. 295-306)

Lectures: Week 13 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 13 Quiz

**Week 14: Anger and Punishment**

**Complete by 4/15**

Readings: Mackie "Morality and the Retributive Emotions" (D2L)

 Frank "Passions within Reason" excerpt (D2L)

Lectures: Week 14 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 14 Quiz

 Paper 2 assigned

**Week 15: Experimental Economics on Emotions, Punishment, and Cooperation**

**Complete by 4/22**

Readings: Fehr & Gachter "Altruistic Punishment in Humans" (D2L)

 Herman & Gachter "Antisocial Punishment Across Societies" (D2L)

Lectures: Week 15 Lectures

Assignments: Post to the discussion forum

 Take Week 15 Quiz

**Week 16: Exam Prep and Paper**

**Complete by 4/29**

Readings: None.

Lectures: Exam Review

Assignments: Finish Second Paper

**Final Exam Date: May 6th**