Course Syllabus: BHP 360

**Moral Psychology**

**Spring, 2022; M,W, 2:50-4:20PM**

**Room:**

**Instructors**:

**Philosopher:** Marius Pascale, Ph.D. **Office Hours:** by appointment; **E-mail**: mpascale@rider.edu

**Psychologist:** Mack Costello, Ph.D. **Office Hours:** by appointment SCI 318E; **E-mail**: [mcostello@rider.edu](mailto:mcostello@rider.edu)

**Course Description**

This course will cover moral philosophy and moral psychology and where they intersect. What are moral development and moral injury? What does our taste in aesthetics say about our morality? Topics covered will include character, responsibility, naturalism and psychological science, ethics, and aesthetics.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Course content and assignments are aligned with Rider University’s student learning outcomes for all undergraduates.

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| **Course Learning Outcomes** | **University Learning Outcomes** |
| 1. Students will describe, discuss, and interpret information about moral philosophy and psychology with (a) assignments and activities related to primary source reading and (b) exams. | Critical Thinking (CT), Information Literacy (IL) |
| 2. Students will apply models of moral philosophy and psychology to issues in the world with the (a) term paper, (b) research project, and (c) relevant parts of assignments and activities. | Scientific Reasoning (SR), Written Communication (WC), Oral Communication (OC) |
| 3. Students will demonstrate the ability to recognize, evaluate, and interpret philosophical claims and argumentation | Critical Thinking (CT), Ethics and Social Responsibility (E) |
| 4. Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in thoughtful, well-established discussion and debate on relevant issues in intersectional philosophy and psychology. | Global and multicultural perspectives (GP) |

**Course format:**

Students are responsible for any of the reading, discussion, lecture, or other class content.

Readings will be available on canvas or through email, or will be accessible through the library. The assigned readings should be completed before class.

Class discussions and lectures over the assigned readings will supplement and complement the materials for that class. Questions and/or comments over the assigned readings are encouraged during class.

**Required Assignments:**

1. **Assignments and Activities**—There are activities and assignments throughout the term.
2. **Term paper**—Students will complete one research paper addressing a topic or area relevant to morality (to be approved by the instructor) and conduct accompanying research for analytic philosophical contributions in this topic or area. Students will summarize, analyze, and construct argumentation in support of/opposition to these findings, as well as an exegesis of any potential empirical consequences.
3. **Research Project**—Students will address a topic or area relevant to morality (to be approved by the instructor) and conduct a literature search for empirical psychological research in this topic or area. Students will summarize and interpret the findings scientifically, then discuss the moral implications of these findings.
4. **Exams**—Exams will cover course content including assigned readings, lectures, and discussions.

**Course Assignments and grade distribution:**

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| **Assignment** | **Info** | **Percent to final grade** |
| Assignments and Activities | Discussion and quizzes throughout the term, and low stakes assignments | 20 |
| Term paper | Updates and a final product | 20 |
| Research Project | Updates and a final product | 20 |
| Exams | 4 exams | 40 |
| Total Percentage |  | 100 |

Grade Scale:

Final grade

93-100 A

90-92 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

77-79 C+

73-76 C

70-72 C-

etc.

**Tentative Schedule**

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| **Week** | **Topic (see Canvas modules)** |
| 1 | **Introduction**  Syllabus and introducing moral psychology |
| **2** | **Philosophy and Psychology**  Justin Klocksiem, *Moral Rationalism and Moral Motivation* (2020)  Ellemers, N., et al. (2019). The Psychology of Morality: A Review and Analysis of Empirical Studies Published From 1940 Through 2017. *Personality and Social Psychology Review, 23,* 332-366***.*** |
| **3** | **Philosophy and Psychology**  Philip Petit, *The Cunning of Trust* (1995)  Killen, M., & Smetana, J. G. (2015). Origins and development of morality. From *Handbook of Child Psychology and Developmental Science, Socioemotional Processes* (Volume 3, 7th ed; Eds. Lerner, R. & Lamb, M).  **\*Exam 1** |
| **4** | **Aesthetics**  Winfried Menninghaus, *The Distancing Embracing Model of Pleasurable Enjoyment in Fictions* (2017)    Selections from: Mechner, F. (2018). A behavioral and biological analysis of aesthetics: Impications for research and applications. *The Psychological Record*. |
| 5 | **Aesthetics**  Jeremy Morris, *The Justification of Torture Horror* (2010)  Tamar Gendler, *The Puzzle of Imaginative Resistance* (2000)  More selections from: Mechner, F. (2018). A behavioral and biological analysis of aesthetics: Impications for research and applications. *The Psychological Record*. |
| 6 | **Aesthetics**  Kendall Walton, *On the (So-Called) Puzzle of Imaginative Resistance* (2001)    Palmer, D. (2018). A behavioral interpretation of aesthetics. *The Psychological Record.*  **\*Exam 2** |
| 7 | **Moral Injury**  P. F. Strawson, *Freedom and Resentment* (1974)  William Sin, *Wu Song’s Killing of His Sister-in Law: An Ethical Analysis* (2018) |
| 8 | **Moral Injury**  Robert Hartman, *Moral Luck and the Unfairness of Morality* (2018)    Litz, B. T., et al. (2009). Moral injury and moral repair in war veterans. *Clinical Psychology Review*. |
| 9 | **Moral Injury**  Ignaas Devisch, *Victims of Disaster: Can Ethical Debriefings be of Help to Care for Their Suffering?* (2017)  Griffin, et al. (2019). Moral injury: An integrative review. *Journal of Traumatic Stress.*    **\*Exam 3** |
| 10 | **Morality and ethics**  Jesse Prinz, *Is Empathy Necessary for Morality* (2012)  Hocutt, M. (2010). Morality: What in the world is it? *Behavior and Philosophy* |
| 11 | **Morality and ethics**  Candace Upton, *Virtue Ethics and Moral Psychology: The Situationism Debate* (2009)  Skinner, B. F. (1953/2014). The problem of control. From *Science and Human Behavior.* |
| 12 | **Morality and ethics**  John Doris, *Situationism and Lack of Character* (2002, text excerpts)    Rottschaefer, W. (2009). Moral Agency and Moral Learning: Transforming Metaethics from a First to a Second Philosophy Enterprise. *Behavior and Philosophy* |
| 13 | **Character and Behavior**  Matthew C. Taylor, *Situationism and the Problem of Moral Development* (2012)  Hocutt, M. (2013). A behavioral analysis of morality and value. *The Behavior Analyst, 36*, 239-249. |
| 14 | **Final Exam** |