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PHIL V3653
Mind and Morals
Tu-Th 11-12:15
327 Milbank

MIND AND MORALS

This course will examine issues that arise in the borderland between moral philosophy and the sciences that investigate the brain and mind, including evolutionary biology, neuroscience, psychology, and psychoanalysis. These issues include egoism and altruism; the moral emotions (guilt, remorse, shame, pride, vengefulness, love, hate, indignation, etc.); the significance of character and character types (psychopathic, narcissistic, authoritarian, altruistic, etc.); the import of recent brain research into moral decisionmaking for theories of moral reasoning, including normative ethical theory, intuitionism, sense theories, and moral cognition; personal identity or selfhood.

Prerequisites: One course in philosophy

Required Text: Three Coursepacks to be available at Village Copier on Tuesday, September 2.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Papers: Two essays on assigned subjects, minimum 1000 and maximum 1300 words, worth 20 and 25% of your grade, respectively. **No electronic submissions, please:** hard copies only.

Brief pop quiz: 10%

Take-home final examination: 45%

Attendance and class participation are **required**.

Please note: Laptops are not to be used in class unless you need one because of disability.

UNIT 1 MORALITY AND MOTIVE

Sept 2, 4 Human Nature; Egoism and Altruism

Plato, *The Republic*, pp. 42-53; 129-143; 301-320

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 88-91; 122-129; 141-155.

Sept 9, 11 Joseph Butler, Selections from *Fifteen Sermons* (1729): Preface, Sermon One, and Sermon Eleven.

Hume, *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* (1777), pp. 13-20, 42-50; 72-79; 88-93

Adam Smith, *Theory of the Moral Sentiments* , pp. 174-179; 179-193

Sept 16, 18 Human Nature; Egoism and Altruism: Evolutionary Science

Edward O. Wilson, *Sociobiology*, pp. 3-6; 562-564; 574-575

Richard Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene*, pp. 123-139

Robert Wright, *The Moral Animal*, 55-105; 236-261; 313-326

Sept. 23, 25 Philip Kitcher, *Vaulting Ambition*, 395-406; 417-437

Frans de Waal, *Primates and Philosophers: How Morality Evolved*, pp. 21-58

Sept 30, Oct 2 <<FIRST PAPER DUE OCT 2>>

Sober & Wilson, "Psychological Evidence" (1998)

John Campbell, "Can Philosophical Accounts of Altruism Accommodate Experimental Data on Helping Behavior?" (1999)

Gilbert Harman, "Virtue Ethics and the Fundamental Attribution Error" (1999)

UNIT 2 MORAL KNOWLEDGE

Oct 7, 9 Normative Ethical Theories: Moral Sense and Moral Reason

Immanuel Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785), pp. 9-43

(Review Unit 1 Adam Smith, *Theory of the Moral Sentiments* 179-193, and David Hume, *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, pp. 38-42, 82-88.)

Oct 14, 16 Deontological vs Utilitarian Moral Theory

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, pp. 6-20; 35-36

Rawls, "Reflective Equilibrium," *Theory of Justice*, pp. 15-19; 40-46; 52-53, 72.

Oct 21, 23 Evolutionary Science and Cognitive Psychology on Normative Theory

Koenigs et al, "Damage to the Prefrontal Cortex Increases Utilitarian Moral Judgments" (2007)

Young and Koenigs, "Investigating Emotion in Moral Cognition: A Review of Evidence from Neuroimaging and Neuropsychology" (2007)

Oct 28, 30 J. Haidt, "The Emotional Dog and Its Rational Tail: A Social Intuitionist Approach to Moral Judgment" (2001)

Joshua Greene, "The Secret Joke of Kant's Soul" 2008

Marc D. Hauser, *Moral Minds* (2006), pp. 1-55

Nov 6 NO CLASS TUESDAY NOV 4 (Election Day)

<< SECOND PAPER DUE NOV 6>>

Haidt and Joseph, "The Moral Mind: How Five Sets of Innate Intuitions Guide the Development of Many Culture-Specific Virtues, and Perhaps Even Modules" (2007)

Kwame Anthony Appiah, *Experiments in Ethics* (2008), pp. 73-88; 89-101; 110-120

**UNIT 3 PSYCHOANALYTIC ACCOUNTS OF MORALITY:
SELF, EGO, SUPEREGO**

Nov 11, 13 David M. Black, "Sympathy Reconfigured: Some Reflections on Sympathy, Empathy and the Discovery of Values" (2003)

Selma Fraiberg, from *Selected Writings of Selma Fraiberg* (1987), ed. Louis Fraiberg: "Origins of Human Bonds," (1967), pp. 16-26; "Ghosts in the Nursery," (1975) pp. 116-136; "Infant-Parent Psychotherapy on Behalf of a Child in a Critical Nutritional State," (1976), pp. 137-165.

November 18, 21 Ernest Wallwork, *Psychoanalysis and Ethics* (1991), pp. 223-243, 268-277

Sigmund Freud, "The Ego and the Id"; "The Ego and the Superego"; "The Dependent Relations of the Ego"; (1923-1925)

Jacob A. Arlow, "Psychoanalysis and the Quest for Morality" (1989).

November 25 Samuel Ritvo, "Outcome of Predictions on Superego Formation: Longitudinal Observations" (1972)

Carrington and Ephron, "Moral Considerations in the Psychotherapy of an Adolescent who Attempted Murder" (1968)

November 27-30 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Dec 2, 4 Otto Kernberg, "Factors in the Psychoanalytic Treatment of Narcissistic Personalities" and "Further Contributions to the Treatment of Narcissistic Personalities" (1986)

David Shapiro, *Autonomy and Rigid Character* (1981), pp. 55-77