Instructor: Steve Guglielmo (sgugliel@macalester.edu)
Office: OLRI 327 (phone: 696-6112)
Office hours: Wed 2-4 PM and by appointment

**OVERVIEW AND FORMAT**

This course will explore fundamental questions of moral psychology. Which kinds of behaviors do we view as immoral? How are moral judgments shaped by intuition, emotion, and reasoning? Is climate change a moral issue? What are the developmental and evolutionary origins of moral judgments? When and why do we punish others? How do we make inferences about others’ moral character? In this course, we will gain insight into these topics, considering perspectives from social, developmental, evolutionary, and political psychology.

Readings for the course will consist of primary literature (theoretical and empirical journal articles), which will be available on Moodle. The set of readings for each week will include at least two articles, typically totaling 40-60 pages. Tuesdays will be a mix of lecture and discussion; Thursdays will typically be exclusively discussion-based.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS**

Reading Responses and Participation (25%)

You will submit a weekly 400-500 word reading response on Sunday of each week, beginning Sunday 9/4, in which you will discuss the coming week’s readings. These responses may critique the work (e.g., regarding methodology, interpretations, claims, etc.), synthesize ideas across multiple readings, pose questions for future research, etc. They should contain **little to no summary** of the articles; rather, your goal is to critique and extend the articles. The reading responses will constitute 20% of your grade for the course, and in-class participation will constitute another 5%. No reading response is required for the week you lead the discussion, for the week of Thanksgiving, or for one other week of your choosing.

*Post your reading response to the coming week’s Moodle forum by **10 pm every Sunday***

Class Presentation and Discussion Leading (10%)

Once during the semester, you and a partner will present to the class and lead the discussion. The format for doing so is flexible. Possible options include: (a) identifying the major themes from the reading responses and organizing the discussion accordingly; (b) synthesizing the claims from the set of readings; (c) posing questions regarding interpretations of data/theory, or how data/theory might relate to other questions; (d) having the class participate in an activity or debate related to the week’s topic. These options are not mutually exclusive — you will likely want to implement several of them in your presentation and discussion leading (or choose other options). In addition, your presentation must incorporate one or two additional articles beyond those on the reading list. You must meet with me at least one week in advance to discuss your articles and plans for your presentation.
Climate Change Reflection (15%) — due Monday 10/10 by 11:59 PM

For this assignment, you will record some aspect of your own climate change-relevant behavior—regarding food consumption, energy usage, transportation, etc., or some combination thereof—over the course of two weeks. Then, after we have together explored the philosophical and psychological literature on morality and climate change, you will submit a reflection paper that summarizes your behavior, considers the psychological factors motivating or hindering this behavior, and identifies possible strategies for modifying your future behavior.

Midterm Exam (15%) — due Monday 10/17 by 11:59 PM

You will complete a midterm exam approximately halfway through the semester, worth 15% of the total grade for the course. The exam is essay based and will cover material from lecture and the assigned readings. The exam is open-notes; you may consult readings, lecture slides, and notes.

Research Paper, Peer Review, and Presentation (35%)

You will write a 10-12 page research paper on a topic of your choice within the field of moral psychology. The paper should be should be formatted in APA style (with 1” margins and 12-point double-spaced font; title page and references are excluded from page count). Your paper may take one of two approaches: (1) a Research Review, in which you review and synthesize research and defend a thesis based on this research; (2) a Research Proposal, in which you propose a study (or studies) that would extend the research on your topic, and you describe your predicted results and their implications. Additional details regarding this assignment will be provided in class.

As part of this assignment, you will also engage in a peer review process, providing feedback to two of your peers (consequently, you will receive feedback from two peers). This serves to improve your own and your peers’ writing and to familiarize you with the peer-review process, which is a central part of scientific writing.

During the last week of class, on Tuesday 12/6 or Thursday 12/8, you will give a brief (5-7 minute) presentation of your research project, followed by a 5-minute Q&A period. This is an opportunity to practice your presentation skills, to share with your peers the insights from your project, and to get additional feedback to incorporate into your final paper. We will discuss this assignment in more detail in class.

Together, your research paper, peer review feedback, and presentation will constitute 35% of your grade for the course (25% for your final paper, 5% for the peer review feedback, and 5% for your presentation).

| Due dates: Draft (Sat 11/12), Peer review (Fri 11/18), Final paper (Fri 12/9) |

TOPICS AND READINGS

Week of 8/31 (week 1): Introduction

Week of 9/5 (week 2): Moral Domains


**Week of 9/12 (week 3): Intuitionism and Dual Processes**


**Week of 9/19 (week 4): Emotion**


Selection of readings from special issue of *Emotion Review* on Emotion and Morality:


**Week of 9/26 (week 5): Mental States**


**Week of 10/3 (week 6): Climate Change**


**Climate Change Reflection due Monday 10/10 by 11:59 PM**

Upload .docx to Moodle. Please name file: *Lastname_Reflection.docx*
Week of 10/10 (week 7): Hypocrisy and Honesty


**Midterm Exam due Monday 10/17 by 11:59 PM**
Upload .docx to Moodle. Please name file: Lastname_Midterm.docx

Week of 10/17 (week 8): Religion


**Fall Break: no class on Thu 10/20**

Week of 10/24 (week 9): Character


Week of 10/31 (week 10): Development

Week of 11/7 (week 11): Cooperation and Punishment


** Draft of Research Paper due Saturday 11/12 by 11:59 PM **
Upload .docx to Moodle. Please name file: Lastname_Draft.docx

Week of 11/14 (week 12): Deterrence, Retribution, and Capital Punishment


** Peer Review Feedback due Friday 11/18 by 11:59 PM **
Upload .docx to Moodle. Please name files: Lastname_Comments1.docx and Lastname_Comments2.docx

Week of 11/21 (week 13): Exploring Current Events

No readings or reading response required for this week.

** Thanksgiving Break: no class on Thu 11/24 **

Week of 11/28 (week 14): Artificial Intelligence


Week of 12/5 (week 15): Presentations

** Final, Revised Research Paper due Friday 12/9 by 11:59 PM **
Upload .docx to Moodle. Please name file: Lastname_Research.docx
TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Computers or tablets may be used in class for note-taking only. They may not be used for any other purposes. Cell phones may not be used in class. If you must make a call or send a text, please leave the classroom to do so.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. See the Student Handbook (http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/03academicpolicies/03-05academicintegrity.html) for guidelines about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, and forgery and how to avoid these serious offenses. Please talk to me if you are unclear how these guidelines apply to this course. Academic dishonesty will be reported to the Director of Academic Programs and will result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially for the course.

COURSE ACCOMMODATIONS

I am committed to providing assistance to help you succeed in this course. Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Contact the Office of Student Affairs, disabilityservices@macalester.edu, 696-6220) or Robin Hart Ruthenbeck (rhartrut@macalester.edu), Assistant Dean of Students, early in the semester to schedule an accommodations meeting. Additional information about disability services and accommodations can be found at: http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices

LATE WORK

It is essential to turn in your work on time. Any assignments submitted after the listed deadline will be penalized 20%, plus an additional 20% for each additional day they are late.