

PSYC 325: MORAL PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2013

Monday/Wednesday 1-2:15 pm, GR 109 Rosenfeld

Course website: https://classes.v2.yale.edu/portal/site/psyc325_s13

Instructor: Steve Guglielmo (steve.guglielmo@yale.edu)

Office hours: Wednesday 3-5 PM (office: SSS 412), and by appointment

Course Overview and Format

This course will explore fundamental questions of moral psychology. How are moral judgments shaped by intuition, emotion, and reasoning? Which kinds of behaviors do we view as immoral? How do moral judgments differ between political groups? What are the evolutionary and developmental origins of moral judgments? When do we punish others, and what are the effects of doing so? How do we make inferences about others' moral character? How do moral judgments influence other judgments or behavior? What are the similarities and differences between negative and positive moral judgments? 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), as well as book chapters. The set of readings for each week will typically include 2-5 articles, totaling 40-50 pages. All readings will be available electronically on the course website.

Course Assignments

Analysis Papers (20%) – due Wed 2/6 and Mon 2/25 (upload to Dropbox on course website)

You will complete two short analysis papers (2-3 pages each) during the course of the semester. In each of these papers, you will critique a single empirical article, selected from a provided list of possible articles. Each analysis paper will have two essential components: (1) a critical analysis of the authors' logic, methodology, interpretations, etc., and (2) a discussion of ideas for future research, including relevant follow-up studies that would clarify or extend the authors' research. Additional details regarding this assignment will be provided in class.

Midterm Exam (20%) – Wednesday 3/6

You will complete a midterm exam halfway through the semester, worth 20% of the total grade for the course. The exam will cover material presented both in lecture and in the assigned readings, and the format will include multiple choice and short essay questions.

Research Paper (30%) – due Friday 4/26 (upload to Dropbox on course website)

You will write a 10-12 page research paper related to a topic covered in the course. In this paper, you will review and synthesize relevant research on your chosen topic and propose/defend a thesis or argument based on this research.

The paper should be formatted in APA style (with 1" margins with 12-point double-spaced font; title page and references excluded from page count). Additional details regarding this assignment will be provided in class.

Final Exam (30%) – Friday 5/3 at 9:00 AM

You will complete a final exam at the end of the semester, worth 30% of the total grade for the course. As with the midterm, the final exam will cover material presented both in lecture and in the assigned readings, and the format will include multiple choice and short essay questions. The exam will be cumulative, covering material from the entire course, but with a stronger focus on material from the second half of the course.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week of 1/14 (week 1): Introduction; Moral Intuitionism

Cushman, F., Young, L., & Hauser, M. (2006). The role of conscious reasoning and intuition in moral judgment: Testing three principles of harm. *Psychological Science*, *17*, 1082-1089.

Haidt, J. (2001). The emotional dog and its rational tail: A social intuitionist approach to moral judgment. *Psychological Review*, *108*, 814-834.

Class meets on Friday 1/18 instead of Monday 1/21

Week of 1/21 (week 2): Emotional Influences on Moral Judgment

Goldberg, J. H., Lerner, J. S., & Tetlock, P. E. (1999). Rage and reason: The psychology of the intuitive prosecutor. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *29*, 781-795.

Inbar, Y., Pizarro, D. A., & Bloom, P. (2009). Conservatives are more easily disgusted than liberals. *Cognition and Emotion*, *23*, 714-725.

Schnall, S., Haidt, J., Clore, G. L., & Jordan, A. H. (2008). Disgust as embodied moral judgment. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *34*, 1096-1109.

No class meeting on Monday 1/21 (MLK Day) – meet on Friday 1/18 instead

Week of 1/28 (week 3): Dual Process Theory of Moral Judgment

Greene, J. D. (2007). The secret joke of Kant's soul. In W. Sinnott-Armstrong (Ed.), *Moral Psychology, Volume 3: The Neuroscience of Morality: Emotion, Disease, and Development* (pp. 35-79). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. [The commentaries on pages 81-117 are recommended but not required.]

Greene, J. D., Sommerville, R. B., Nystrom, L. E., Darley, J. M., & Cohen, J. D. (2001). An fMRI investigation of emotional engagement in moral judgment. *Science*, *293*, 2105-2108.

Koenigs, M., Young, L., Adolphs, R., Tranel, D., Cushman, F., Hauser, M., & Damasio, A. (2007). Damage to the prefrontal cortex increases utilitarian moral judgements. *Nature*, *446*, 908-911.

Week of 2/4 (week 4): Mental States and Moral Judgment

Cushman, F., Dreber, A., Wang, Y., & Costa, J. (2009). Accidental outcomes guide punishment in a "trembling hand" game. *PLoS One*, *4*, e6699.

Gray, K., Young, L., & Waytz, A. (2012). Mind perception is the essence of morality. *Psychological Inquiry*, 23, 101-124.

Moran, J. M., Young, L. L., Saxe, R., Lee, S. M., O'Young, D., Mavros, P. L., & Gabrieli, J. D. (2011). Impaired theory of mind for moral judgment in high-functioning autism. *PNAS*, 108, 2688–2692.

**** First Analysis Paper due Wednesday 2/6 by 10 PM ****

Upload .pdf of your paper to Dropbox on course website. Please name file: *Lastname_Analysis_1.pdf*

Week of 2/11 (week 5): Moral Foundations Theory and Political Differences in Morality

Graham, J., Haidt, J., & Nosek, B. A. (2009). Liberals and conservatives rely on different sets of moral foundations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 96, 1029-1046.

Graham, J., Nosek, B. A., & Haidt, J. (2012). The moral stereotypes of liberals and conservatives: Exaggeration of differences across the political spectrum. *PLoS One*, 7, e50092.

Wright, J. C., & Baril, G. (2011). The role of cognitive resources in determining our moral intuitions: Are we all liberals at heart? *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 47, 1007-1012.

Week of 2/18 (week 6): Punishment Motives: Deterrence and Retribution

Carlsmith, K. M. (2006). The roles of retribution and utility in determining punishment. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 42, 437-451.

Carlsmith, K. M., Darley, J. M., & Robinson, P. H. (2002). Why do we punish? Deterrence and just deserts as motives for punishment. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 83, 284-299.

Darley, J. M., & Pittman, T. S. (2003). The psychology of compensatory and retributive justice. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 7, 324-336.

Week of 2/25 (week 7): Cooperation, Defection, and Punishment

Bowles, S., & Gintis, H. (2002). Homo reciprocans. *Nature*, 415, 125-127.

Dreber, A., Rand, D. G., Fudenberg, D., & Nowak, M. A. (2008). Winners don't punish. *Nature*, 452, 348-351.

Fehr, E. & Gächter, S. (2002). Altruistic punishment in humans. *Nature*, 415, 137-140.

Henrich, J., McElreath, R., Barr, A., Ensminger, J., Barrett, C., Bolyanatz, A., ... & Ziker, J. (2006). Costly punishment across human societies. *Science*, 312, 1767-1770.

Herrmann, B., Thöni, C., & Gächter, S. (2008). Antisocial punishment across societies. *Science*, 319, 1362-1367.

**** Second Analysis Paper due Monday 2/25 by 10 PM ****

Upload .pdf of your paper to Dropbox on course website. Please name file: *Lastname_Analysis_2.pdf*

Week of 3/4 (week 8): Hypocrisy and Moral Licensing

- Merritt, A. C., Effron, D. A., Fein, S., Savitsky, K. K., Tuller, D. M., & Monin, B. (2012). The strategic pursuit of moral credentials. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 48*, 774-777.
- Merritt, A. C., Effron, D. A., & Monin, B. (2010). Moral self-licensing: When being good frees us to be bad. *Social and Personality Compass, 4/5*, 344-357.

**** Midterm Exam Wednesday 3/6 ****

Spring Break (no class the weeks of 3/11 and 3/18)

Week of 3/25 (week 9): Developmental Origins of Morality

- Fehr, E., Bernhard, H., & Rockenbach, B. (2008). Egalitarianism in young children. *Nature, 454*, 1079-1083.
- Hamlin, J. K., Wynn, K., & Bloom, P. (2007). Social evaluation by preverbal infants. *Nature, 405*, 557-560.
- Hamlin, J. K., Wynn, K., Bloom, P., & Mahajan, N. (2011). How infants and toddlers react to antisocial others. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 108*, 19931-19936.
- Hepach, R., Vaish, A., & Tomasello, M. (2012). Young children are intrinsically motivated to see others helped. *Psychological Science, 23*, 967-972.
- Warneken, F., & Tomasello, M. (2006). Altruistic helping in human infants and young chimpanzees. *Science, 311*, 1301-1303.

Week of 4/1 (week 10): Moral Character

- Critcher, C. R., Inbar, Y., & Pizarro, D. A. (2012). How quick decisions illuminate moral character. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.
- Inbar, Y., Pizarro, D. A., & Cushman, F. (2012). Benefiting from misfortune: When harmless actions are judged to be morally blameworthy. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 38*, 52-62.
- Tannenbaum, D., Uhlmann, E. L., & Diermeier, D. (2011). Moral signals, public outrage, and immaterial harms. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 47*, 1249-1254.

Week of 4/8 (week 11): Moral Influence

- Alicke, M. D. (1992). Culpable causation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 63*, 368-378.
- Cushman, F., Knobe, J., & Sinnott-Armstrong, W. (2008). Moral appraisals affect doing/allowing judgments. *Cognition, 108*, 281-289.
- Knobe, J. (2010). Person as scientist, person as moralist. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 33*, 315-329. [The commentaries on pages 329-362 are recommended but not required]

Week of 4/15 (week 12): Moral Conviction and Moral Mandates

Morgan, G. S., & Skitka, L. J. (2012). Moral conviction. In D. J. Christie (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of peace psychology* (Vol. 2, pp. 660 – 664). West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Skitka, L. J. (2002). Do the means always justify the ends, or do the ends sometimes justify the means? A value protection model of justice reasoning. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 28, 588-597.

Skitka, L. J., Bauman, C. W., & Sargis, E. G. (2005). Moral conviction: Another contributor to attitude strength or something more? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88, 895-917.

Week of 4/22 (week 13): Negative vs. Positive Moral Judgments; Final Exam Review

Pizarro, D., Uhlmann, E., & Salovey, P. (2003). Asymmetry in judgments of moral blame and praise. *Psychological Science*, 14, 267–272.

Solan, L. M. (2009). Blame, praise, and the structure of legal rules. *Brooklyn Law Review*, 75, 517-543.

**** Research Paper due Friday 4/26 by 10 PM ****

Upload .pdf of your paper to Dropbox on course website. Please name file: *Lastname_Research.pdf*

**** Final Exam Friday 5/3 at 9:00 AM ****