Phil 109B: Ethics and Emotions
Professor Kate Moran
Fall 2017: Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:30 – 2:00pm
Location: Mandel Center for the Humanities, G11
Office Hours: TBD

Course Overview and Goals

This course asks questions about whether (and if so, how) emotions and ethics interact. Our discussions will center around questions like: What is an emotion? Is emotion necessary for moral judgment or moral motivation? Is emotion detrimental to moral judgement or moral motivation? Do modern moral theories ask us to be impossibly impartial? Is there room for love and friendship within modern moral theory? What are the appropriate reactive responses to moral wrongdoing?

Course Requirements

Students Taking the Course for Undergraduate Credit:
- Weekly reading responses (40%)
  Reading responses are available via LATTE and should be completed 24hrs before the beginning of each Tuesday class. The first of these will be due September 5 (for the September 6 meeting)
- Midterm Paper, 4–5 pages (20%)
- Final Paper, 8–10 pages (30%)

Students Taking the Course for Graduate Credit
- Attend a weekly graduate session and lead a class presentation. (30%) You should plan to meet with me the week before your presentation.
- Submit a term paper (70%)

Course Prerequisites and Assumed Knowledge

There are no official prerequisites for this course, and all undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to take the course for credit or audit the course.

However, some basic knowledge in normative philosophy will be assumed. You should be familiar with philosophical terminology (for example, the distinctions between necessary and sufficient conditions, and descriptive and normative claims), and with the basic arguments of Kantian moral theory and utilitarian moral theory. If you have taken Intro to Ethics or a similar course, you should be prepared for this course. If you do not have this background, you are still welcome to take the course, but you will have to do a bit of catching up on your own.

Texts and Course Schedule

(1) Richard Wollheim’s book, On the Emotions, is available at the campus bookstore.
(2) All other readings will be posted on the course’s LATTE site.
I may add readings as we go on, but I will always give you at least a week’s notice if I do so.

Please have readings with you in class. You should be able to ‘mark up’ your readings and refer to page numbers and passages in the course of class discussion.

September 1: Course Introduction
September 5 – 19: What are Emotions?
Richard Wollheim, *On the Emotions* (Please read chapter 1 for Sept. 5)

September 26 – October 13: How Might Emotion Inform Morality?
Adam Smith, *A Theory of Moral Sentiments*

October 17 and 20: Ethics and Neuroscience
Peter Singer, ‘Ethics and Intuitions’
Selim Berker, ‘The Normative Insignificance of Neuroscience’

October 24 and 27: Modern Moral Theories
Readings TBA

October 31 and November 3
(1) Michael Stocker, ‘The Schizophrenia of Modern Ethical Theories’
(2) Marcia Baron, ‘The Alleged Moral Repugnance of Acting from Duty’

November 7 and 10
(1) Bernard Williams, ‘A Critique of Utilitarianism’
(2) Sarah Conly, ‘Utilitarianism and Integrity’

November 14 and 17
Iris Murdoch, ‘The Idea of Perfection’

November 21: Reactive Attitudes
Peter Strawson, ‘Freedom and Resentment’

November 28 and December 1: Friendship and Love
(1) Michael Stocker, ‘Friendship and Love: Some Difficult Relations’
(2) David Velleman, ‘Love as a Moral Emotion’

December 5 and 8: Special Requests and/or overflow days

Policies

**Academic Integrity**
You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University’s policies on academic integrity (see [http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai)). Faculty may refer any suspected instances of alleged dishonesty to the Office of Student Development and Conduct. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in sanctions including but not limited to, failing grades being issued, educational programs, and other consequences.

**Documented Disabilities**
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

**Emailing Papers**
I will accept a paper via email as proof that it is done on time, but you will need to turn in a hard copy in order to receive a grade.

**Cell phones** should be securely stored in your backpack/briefcase/bindle bag for the duration of our class meetings. I reserve the right to call on any student with a cell phone.