Topics in Ethical Theory: Moral Psychology
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Course Description
In this course we will study the psychology and rationality of our moral responses. We will focus on three important emotions: grief, anger and love. We will ask: What are emotions and how are they related to moral judgment? What are the reasons for grief, anger, and love? Is there anything normatively problematic about anger? How does forgiveness shape our moral response, and is forgiveness normatively problematic?

Books
Other readings will be made available on LATTE.

Requirements
• Four response papers, 300-500 words (20%).
• Final Exam (20%).
• Final paper, 10-12 pages (40%).
• Participation and exercises (20%).

Course attendance is required and is included in the participation grade. The response papers should critically address the reading and should be submitted at least one day in advance of the class meeting during which the reading is discussed.

Laptop Policy: Please do not use laptops, tablets or other screens in class!
Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week)
Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

Learning Goals
General goals are to learn how to read important contemporary texts, to extract and evaluate philosophical arguments from them, and to critically engage with, and build upon these arguments. The particular goals are to understand how reasons ground our moral response and to get a conceptual understanding of grief, anger and love. Students will also learn about the extent to which emotions are the basis for considerations of social justice and which emotions are conducive to it.

For more information, see the Philosophy Department’s learning goals at: http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/philosophy/undergrad/learninggoals.html

Academic Dishonesty
Academic Dishonesty will be reported to the Department of Student Development and Conduct. Students are responsible to inform themselves about what constitutes dishonesty. If in doubt, please ask me! Here are some basic principles:

- Representing others’ words as one’s own constitutes academic dishonesty. One represents others’ words as one’s own if one uses a formulation that someone else came up with without putting it in quotation marks and attributing it to the author.
- Copying and pasting formulations found on the internet, without attributing them and citing the relevant webpage, is a particularly egregious form of academic dishonesty.
- Communicating with others during an exam about anything that pertains to the subject matter of the course also constitutes academic dishonesty.

Note that it is not dishonest to have others read your papers and give you feedback on them. The writing and formulations, however, must be your own.

More information about what constitutes academic dishonesty can be found here: http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/srcs/index.html

Disability
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis and need to have special accommodations for this class, please see me immediately. I am very happy to make the relevant arrangements.
Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Part I: Grief

1/18 – Introduction


1/30, 2/1 – Freud, “Mourning and Melancholia”
DSM-5, selections

2/6, 2/8 – Moller, “Love and Death”
Scheffler, “Valuing”

2/13, 2/15 – D’Arms and Jacobson, “The Moralistic Fallacy”
Hieronymi, “Articulating an Uncompromising Forgiveness”

Break

Part II: Anger and Forgiveness


Break

Part III: Love

4/19 – Frankfurt, *Reasons of Love*, lecture I

4/24, 4/26 – Frankfurt, *Reasons of Love*, lectures II & III

5/1, 5/3 – Kolodny, “Love as Valuing a Relationship”

Final Paper, due May 3.

Final Exam, tbd