

Class Number: 15360/15361

Section: 0001/0002

3 Credits

SOP 4850

Moral Psychology

Fall 2023



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA CAMPUS

Instructor: Adam E. Tratner, PhD

Email: atratner@fsu.edu **Office:** Room 201

Meeting Times: Tuesday & Thursday 4:00pm - 5:15pm.

Classroom: Room 206

Office Hours: Friday 11:00am -12:00pm & by appointment.

Student Learning Goals

By the end of the course, students should understand prominent theories, research methods, and real-world applications of moral psychology. To that end, students should be able to interpret and articulate principles of and scientific research on moral psychology.

The above student learning goals will be assessed through performance on written and oral assessments.

Course Description

How do people decide what is right and wrong and resolve moral dilemmas?

Why do we help, blame, punish, and reward other people? Is morality based primarily on reasoning or emotion? How does morality develop? Is morality innate and universal, or culturally specific? This course explores fundamental questions about human morality. By integrating perspectives from evolutionary biology, developmental psychology, neuroscience, and other fields, we will examine cutting-edge scientific research that speaks to these timeless questions.

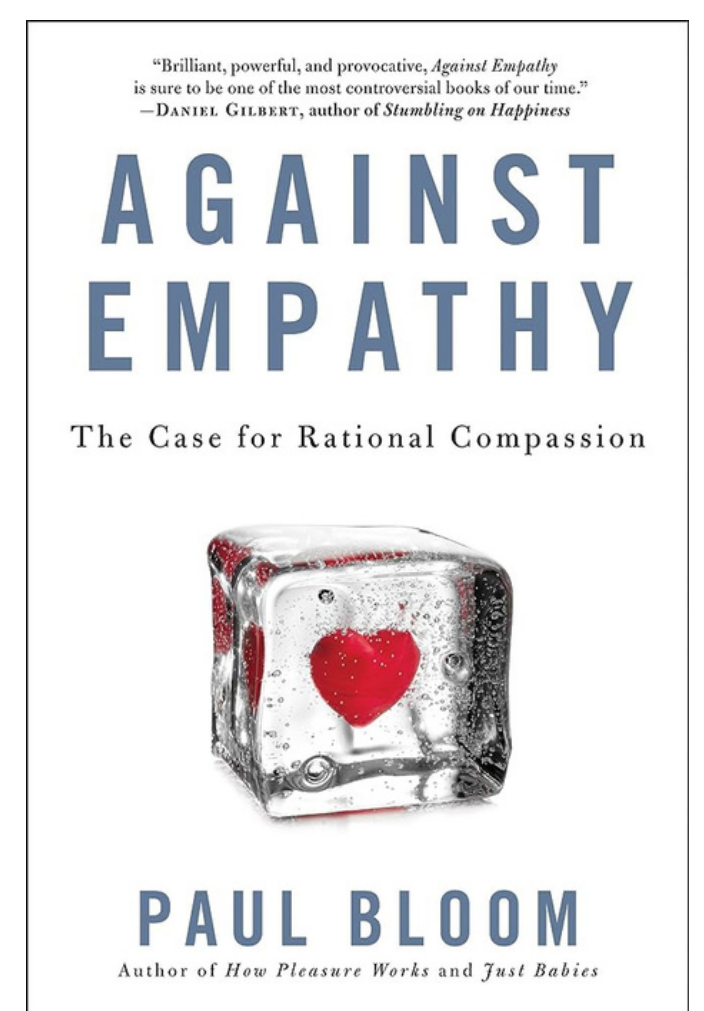
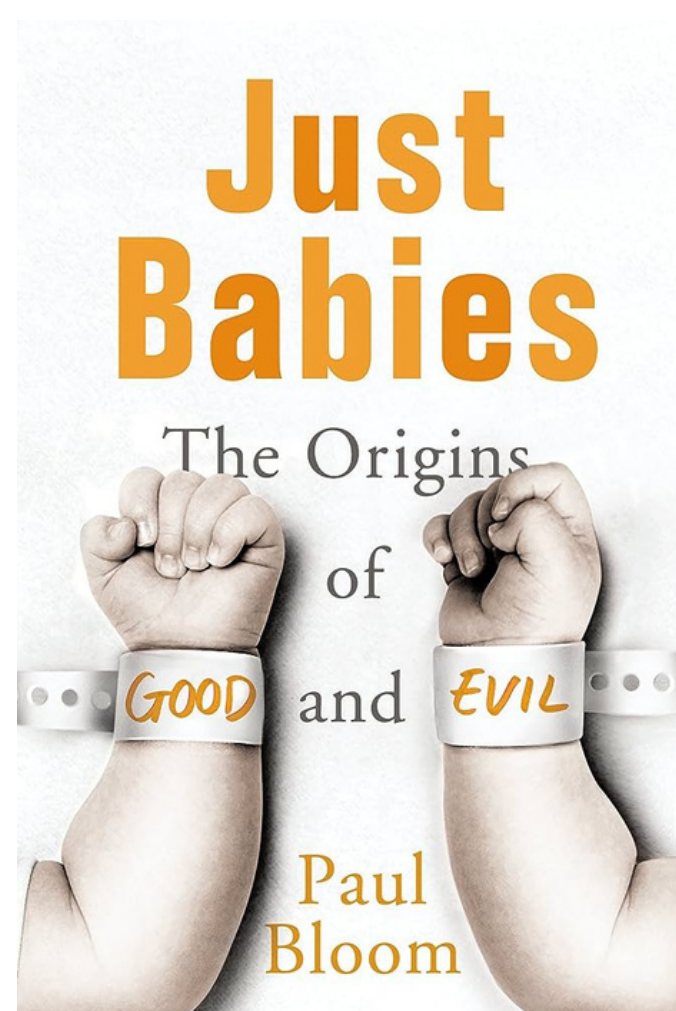
Materials

Canvas: Assignments, announcements, supplemental resources, grades, and other things will be posted to and available through Canvas (<http://canvas.fsu.edu>).

Required Readings: Available to download for free on Canvas.



Required Readings



Course Content

This course is administered on Canvas. Essential resources, course information, and grades are available on the course Canvas page. Some assessments are accessed and completed via Canvas. See course schedule at the bottom for all due dates.

Grade Determination

The class is out of 250 total points split between 3 grade categories:

In-Class Discussions	Leading Discussions	Assignments	Course Total
100 points	75 points	75 points	250 points

100 points – In-Class Discussions: Attending class and participating in discussion is mandatory. If you do not attend class, you will not earn any points. Showing up late will result in a -50% penalty to your grade that day. Further, if you decline to participate, are unwilling, and/or are not prepared to have a discussion (e.g., you did not read, are not paying attention, are working on something for another class), then you will not earn any points for that day.

- **Discussion Questions:** In addition to attending in-class discussions, students are expected to read the assigned material and submit 3 typed discussion questions about the reading(s) prior to arriving to class. You will submit your discussion questions by writing in-text or uploading them as a document to the submission portal on Canvas. Grades will be assigned based on the degree to which the questions reflect a careful and thoughtful reading of the assigned material and have the potential to stimulate conversations. As a rule of thumb, questions that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no” are not sufficient. If you do not submit discussion questions, you will not earn any points that day.

75 points – Leading Discussions: During each in-class discussion session, several students will lead the discussion of the assigned readings. Every student in the class will lead discussions 3 times, on 3 different days throughout the semester. *These three students will be chosen at random to lead discussions at the start of each class.* Grades will be assigned based on the thoughtfulness and clarity of the questions, as well as the ability to stimulate lively discussion. The same policies regarding tardiness and absence apply (see above). Further, if you decline or are unwilling to participate, and/or are not prepared to have a discussion, then you will not earn any points for that day. Each day that you lead a discussion is worth 25 points.

75 points – Assignments: There will be 3 written assignments spread throughout the semester. Directions for how to complete these assignments will be posted 1 week prior to their due dates and mentioned during class (specific directions for how to complete and submit each assignment can be found on Canvas). Each assignment is worth 25 points and must be submitted *online on Canvas* before the assigned due date.

Grade Calculator

Percent Grade	Letter Grade
92-100%	A
90-91%	A-
88-89%	B+
82-87%	B
80-81%	B-
78-79%	C+
72-77%	C
70-71%	C-
68-69%	D+
62-67%	D
60-61%	D-
≤59%	F

Course Expectations

General Expectations

All correspondence (emails, meetings, phone calls) must be in **English**. It is expected that students devote roughly **10 hours** per week on this course, split between attending classes, completing assignments, studying, reading, and meeting with the professor (if needed). Students are expected to complete all assignments individually unless otherwise stated.

Expectations for Students

- (1) Have a reliable internet connected computer with the most updated Canvas-compatible web browsers (e.g., Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge). You may also need up-to-date versions of a Flash player, Java, and a PDF viewer (e.g., Adobe).
- (2) Have a backup plan to be able to log in from another computer or another location if your computer crashes or internet goes down. Plan ahead for taking quizzes and submitting assignments!
- (3) Log in to Canvas at least 3-5 times a week; checking Canvas daily is recommended.
- (4) Follow the calendar of events and complete all of the quizzes assignments by their deadlines.
- (5) Respond to emails within 24 hours during weekdays (48 hours on weekends).
- (6) Participate in a thoughtful and polite manner.
- (7) Observe proper classroom etiquette by respecting each other's privacy, using constructive criticism, and refraining from derogatory/inflammatory comments.

Expectations for the Instructor

- (1) I (the instructor) will log in to the course daily and will alert students if I will be absent [this is unlikely to happen].
- (2) I (the instructor) will respond to your questions, concerns, and emails within 24 hours [48 hours on weekends].
- (3) I (the instructor) will grade all assignments in a timely manner [within 2-3 days].

Sudden Loss of Internet Access

If you lose access to a reliable internet connection, it is necessary to contact me as soon as possible. Without internet, you will be unable to complete Assignments or submit Discussion Questions. If you cannot reach me by email, you may call me/WhatsApp me. The sooner that I am aware of your situation, the faster I can guide you towards resources to obtain internet access and work with you to come up with a solution. Here is my phone number in case of emergency: (507) 6345-1607

Technical Support

If you are unfamiliar with the Canvas platform, are or are unsure of how to navigate the online resources, or are experiencing other technical difficulties, here are some useful resources:

- FSU Information Technology Services: <https://its.fsu.edu/its-service-desk>

For more Canvas tutorials and learning support:

- <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>

Course Policies

Class Attendance Policy

Students who do not attend the first class meeting will be dropped from the course by the academic department that offers the course. This policy applies to all levels of courses and to all campuses and study centers. It remains the student's responsibility to verify course drops and check that fees are adjusted.

Tardiness (defined as showing up more than 5-minutes late after the start of class) and Absence will result in harsh penalties to your grade unless you have a legitimate excuse (and documentation to corroborate it). Unexcused tardiness will result in -50% points to your grade(s) for that day. Unexcused absence will result in a loss of all points possible that day.

University Attendance Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the immediate family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Late or Missed Assignments

Discussion Questions and Assignments are due BEFORE the assigned due dates indicated on the course schedule. Late or missing work will NOT be accepted unless you present a legitimate excuse (note: loss of internet access is legitimate). If you can't attend a class session or cannot submit an assignment for whatever reason, inform me as far in advance as possible (e.g., for religious holidays or University events), but no sooner than two days (48 hours) in advance. If it is not possible to notify me in advance (e.g., for last-minute illness or emergency), contact me as soon as possible by email (atratner@fsu.edu). The professor has the right to ask for documentation to corroborate your excuse. All makeups must occur as soon as possible.

Grade Disputes

If something seems wrong with your grade, please bring it to my attention as soon as possible. Honest mistakes do occasionally happen. If you would like to dispute a grade, you will have 7 days to bring your grade dispute to my attention. However, in order for me to amend your grade, you cannot simply state that I am wrong; you must appeal to me using concrete evidence and/or logical reasoning for why you deserve a better grade.

Student Eligibility for an Incomplete Grade

Incomplete (“I”) grades will not be assigned, except in the case of exceptional unforeseen circumstances that occur within the last three weeks of the semester and your work has otherwise been satisfactory (C average).

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>.

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of other people’s intellectual product. Borrowing material from other sources without giving credit to the original author shows disrespect for intellectual property, it and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism can take several forms: careless paraphrasing that maintains a considerable part from the original without quotation marks; downloading essays from a web site and using them as one’s own; having someone else write an essay; “forgetting” to place quotation marks around a borrowed passage; paraphrasing a document and including it in your work without citing the original source. Whenever you decide to consult secondary sources, do so responsibly: give credit to the author by indicating the source, and quote appropriately. Any written work that shows signs of plagiarism will receive a failing score without any opportunity to make up. Repeated cases of plagiarism may result in a failing grade.

Please be aware that using social media to collaborate on and share course exams or assignments with other students that are not identified by the course instructor as group work is a violation of the FSU Academic Honor Policy.

Special Considerations & Americans With Disabilities Act

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

- (1) Must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);

- (2) Must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
- (3) Should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities please visit the Office of Accessibility Services website (<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>), or contact the office directly:

874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

Tutoring & Other Assistance

The Writing Center of FSU Panama can provide support with your essays and research projects. Additionally, the Reading/Writing Center of FSU located in Tallahassee can provide tutoring online. For more information and appointments visit: <http://wr.english.fsu.edu/Reading-Writing-Center/RWC-Online>. If you have questions about any aspect of this class or any aspect of the assignments, please reach out to me. A wealth of resources on research guides, and citation styles can be found through the FSU libraries online: www.lib.fsu.edu

Confidential Campus Resources

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program
University Center A, Rm. 4100
(850) 644-7161
Available 24/7/365
Office Hours: M-F 8-5 <https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling and Psychological Services
Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255 <https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
(850) 644-6230 <https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

Title IX Statement

As a recipient of Federal financial assistance for education activities, FSU is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all of its education programs and activities are free from discrimination on the basis of sex. Sexual discrimination includes sexual misconduct (sexual violence, stalking, intimate partner violence, gender based animosity and gender based stereotyping). If you have questions about Title IX or wish to file a Title IX complaint, please visit the FSU Title IX website: www.titleix.fsu.edu or call the Title IX Director 850-644-6271. **Please note that as Responsible Employees, all faculty are required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Office.** The Victim Advocate Program at FSU has a confidential advocate on call twenty-four hours a day to respond to FSU students, faculty, and staff who are victimized, or any other person who is victimized on our campus, or by an FSU student. Daytime Phone: 850.644.7161, 850.644.2277, or 850.645.0086. Nights, Weekends & Holidays 850.644.1234 ([FSUPD](#)) Ask to speak to the on-call advocate.

Sexual Harassment Policy

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination based on a person's gender. Sexual harassment is contrary to the University's values and moral standards, which recognize the dignity and worth of each person, as well as a violation of federal and state laws and University rules and policies. Sexual harassment cannot and will not be tolerated by the Florida State University, whether by faculty, students, or staff; or by others while on property owned by or under the control of the University.

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Note: Changes will be noted online in Canvas, and a current version of the syllabus reflecting any changes will be available at all times through Canvas. Students are responsible for ensuring they are referencing the most current version of this syllabus. This course will observe all deadlines posted on the FSU Panama Academic Calendar, including add/drop dates.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	T 29/8/2023	Introduction	Syllabus	
	TR 31/8/2023	Moral Psychology: Past & Present	Article #1	Discussion Questions #1
2	T 5/9/2023	Morality Evolves (I)	Article #2	Discussion Questions #2
	TR 7/9/2023	Morality Evolves (II)	Article #3	Discussion Questions #3
3	T 12/9/2023	No Class: The Construct of Morality		
	TR 14/9/2023	No Class: The Construct of Morality		Assignment #1 Due: 4:00pm
4	T 19/9/2023	The Problem with Morality (I)	Article #4	Discussion Questions #4
	TR 21/9/2023	The Problem with Morality (II)	Article #5	Discussion Questions #5
5	T 26/9/2023	Moral Development	Just Babies: Preface & Chapter 1	Discussion Questions #6
	TR 28/9/2023	Moral Development	Just Babies: Chapter 2	Discussion Questions #7
6	T 3/10/2023	Moral Development	Just Babies: Chapter 3	Discussion Questions #8
	TR 5/10/2023	Moral Development	Just Babies: Chapter 4	Discussion Questions #9

7	T	10/10/2023	Moral Development	Just Babies: Chapter 5	Discussion Questions #10
	TR	12/10/2023	Moral Development	Just Babies: Chapter 6	Discussion Questions #11
8	T	17/10/2023	Moral Development	Just Babies: Chapter 7	Discussion Questions #12
	TR	19/10/2023	No Class: Current Issues in Moral Psychology (I)	TBA	
9	T	24/10/2023	No Class: Current Issues in Moral Psychology (II)	TBA	
	TR	26/10/2023	No Class: Current Issues in Moral Psychology (III)		Assignment #2 Due: 4:00pm
10	T	31/10/2023	Empathy	Against Empathy: Prologue & Chapter 1	Discussion Questions #13
	TR	2/11/2023	No Class (National Holiday)		
11	T	7/11/2023	Empathy	Against Empathy: Chapter 2	Discussion Questions #14
	TR	9/11/2023	No Class (National Holiday)		

12	T	14/11/2023	Empathy	Against Empathy: Chapter 3	Discussion Questions #15
	TR	16/11/2023	Empathy	Against Empathy: Chapter 4	Discussion Questions #16
13	T	21/11/2023	Empathy	Against Empathy: Chapter 5	Discussion Questions #17
	TR	23/11/2023	Empathy	Against Empathy: Chapter 6	Discussion Questions #18
14	T	28/11/2023	No Class (National Holiday)		
	TR	30/11/2023	Special Topics in Moral Psychology	Article #6	Discussion Questions #19
15	T	5/12/2023	Special Topics in Moral Psychology	Article #7	Discussion Questions #20
	TR	7/12/2023	Special Topics in Moral Psychology	Article #8	Discussion Questions #21
16	T	12/12/2023	No Class (Finals Week)		Assignment #3 Due: 6:00pm
	TR	14/12/2023	No Class (Finals Week)		