

# CLPS 2770: Moral Psychology

Fall 2012  
Th, 4:00-6:20pm  
Metcalf 330

*Instructor:* Fiery Cushman  
*Office Hours:* Wed. 2-4pm  
*Office:* 334 Metcalf

A survey of contemporary research in moral psychology. Covers various psychological mechanisms supporting moral judgment and behavior, their development, their neural basis, and models of the biological and cultural evolution of morality. Particular attention is given to the function of morality.

## Requirements

1. Each week several readings will be assigned. Students must complete a response paper of about one page based on these readings and submit it by email 24 hours before the course meeting. A total of 10 response papers are required over the course of the semester; in other words, three may be omitted.

The response paper should build on the readings in manner that goes beyond summarization. For instance, they might argue an alternative theory, propose a new experiment, draw a new connection between articles, etc. Focus your response paper on a topic that you are particularly keen to discuss with the group, which may narrowly target just part of one reading, or may deal broadly with the readings as a group.

The response paper should be loaded onto the course website where it will be viewable by other students. You are welcomed but not required to read over other students' response papers before each class meeting.

2. A paper of about 5,000 words is due on December 14. This paper can be a theoretical treatment of material related to the core topics covered in the course, or it can be an empirical report of a new study related to those topics. Students are welcomed to confer with each other and the instructor about the design of a new study.

Course participation and response papers will each account for 30% of the final grade, and the paper will account for the remaining 40%.

## Notes

There is reading assigned for the first class meeting (see below).

In order to make a 30 minute appointment for office hours, please use [this web signup tool](#).

Obtain PDFs of readings and submit your response papers on the course website: TBD, check back

This course is designed for graduate students. Undergraduates who have an interest in the course should contact the instructor.

## Readings

9/6: *Defining the moral domain*

Miller, *Bloodtaking and Peacemaking*, Prologue  
Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, Ch. 1 & p. 622-630  
Fehr & Fischbacher, *Social norms and human cooperation*  
Tisak & Turiel, *Children's conceptions of moral and prudential rules*  
Rozin, Lowery, Imada & Haidt, *The CAD Triad Hypothesis*

9/13: *The Biological Evolution of Morality*

Trivers, *The Evolution of Reciprocal Altruism*  
Clutton-Brock & Parker, *Punishment in Animal Societies*  
DiScioli & Kurzban, *Mysteries of Morality*  
Frank, *Passions Within Reason*, Ch. 3  
Gintis et al, *Explaining altruistic behavior in humans*

9/20: *The Cultural Evolution of Morality*

Henrich et al, *Markets, Religion, Community Size, and the Evolution of Fairness and Punishment*  
Henrich, Boyd & Richerson, *The puzzle of monogamous marriage*  
Boehm, *Blood Revenge*, Ch. 11  
Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, Ch. 2  
Pinker and Henrich exchange on *Edge*

9/27: *Punishment*

Fehr & Gächter, *Altruistic Punishment in Humans*  
Hermann & Gächter, *Antisocial Punishment*  
Dreber et al., *Winners Don't Punish*  
Hamlin et al., *How Infants and Toddlers React to Antisocial Others*  
Darley, Carlsmith & Robinson, *Incapacitation and just deserts as motivations for punishment*

10/4: *Responsibility & Blame*

Weiner, *Judgments of Responsibility*, Ch. 1  
Cushman, *Crime and Punishment*  
Malle et al., *Moral, cognitive and social: A model of blame*  
Alicke, *Culpable Control and the Psychology of Blame*

10/11: *Intent, Agency & Will*

Young et al. *Disruption of the Right Temporoparietal Junction...*  
Young et al. *Damage to the Ventromedial Prefrontal Cortex...*  
Cushman et al. *The Development of Intent-based Moral Judgment*  
Pizarro, Uhlmann & Salovay, *Asymmetry in Judgments of Blame and Praise*  
Nichols & Knobe, *Free Will and the Bounds of the Self*

10/18: *Victims & Empathy*

Batson & Shaw, *Evidence for altruism: Towards a pluralism of prosocial motives*  
Lamm, Decety & Singer, *Meta-analytic evidence for common and distinct neural networks...*  
Slovic, *If I look at the mass I will never act: Psychic numbing and genocide*  
(<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~baron/journal/7303a/jdm7303a.htm>)  
Gray & Wegner, *Morality takes two: Dyadic morality and mind perception*  
Pinker, *The Better Angels of our Nature*, Ch. 9, p. 571-592

10/25: *Socialization & Psychopathy*

Blair et al., *Neuro-cognitive systems involved in morality*  
Seymore, Singer & Dolan, *The Neurobiology of Punishment*  
Nichols, *Norms with feelings: Towards a psychological account of moral judgment*  
Weisberg & Leslie, *The role of victims' emotions in preschoolers' moral judgments*

11/1: *Dual-process theories*

Greene, *The secret joke of Kant's soul*  
Haidt, *The emotional dog and its rational tail*  
Crockett, *Serotonin selectively influences moral judgment and behavior through effects on harm aversion*  
Moretto, *A psychophysiological investigation of moral judgment after ventromedial prefrontal damage*  
Moll, *The neural basis of moral cognition*  
Kahane et al., *The neural basis of intuitive and counterintuitive moral judgment*

11/8: *Prosocial Behavior*

Warneken & Melis, *The Ontogeny and Phylogeny of Cooperation*  
Walker et al., *Varieties of Moral Personality: Beyond the Banality of Heroism*  
Slingerlindental, Noranzayan & Henrich, *The evolution of prosocial religions*  
Batson, *Moral masquerades: Experimental exploration of the nature of moral motivation*

11/15: *Family & Alliance*

Young & Wang, *The Neurobiology of Pair Bonding*  
Bartz et al., *Social effects of oxytocin in humans: Context and person matter*  
Kinzler, *The development of language as a social category*  
Mahajan & Wynn, *Origins of "Us" versus "Them"*  
Fukayama, *The origins of political order*, Ch. 13, 16

11/29: *Purity, Sacredness & Honor*

Graham et al., *Liberals and conservatives rely on different sets of moral foundations*  
Dungan & Young, *Self and other focus for moral violations of harm versus disgust*  
Tetlock et al., *The psychology of the unthinkable*  
Boehm, *Blood Revenge*, Ch. 4-5  
Sommers, *Two faces of revenge*

12/6: *Reason and Progress*

Haidt & Kesebeer, *Morality*

Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, Ch. 9 p. 642-670

Boehm, *Blood Revenge*, Ch. 8

Fukayama, *The Origins of Political Order*, Ch. 17

Appiah, *Cosmopolitanism*, Ch. 4-5