

Fall 2013: Honors 2013.2 / Evolution and Biology of Morality / MW 3:00-4:20
 John Protevi / protevi@lsu.edu / <http://www.protevi.com/john/Morality/index.html>
 Revised: 17 October 2013

W	DATE	TOPIC	Reading
1	M 26 Aug	Course Intro	http://www.protevi.com/john/Morality/Intro.pdf
	W 28 Aug	Issues in Biology	http://www.protevi.com/john/Morality/Intro_lecture_1.pdf
2	M 2 Sept	NO CLASS	Labor Day
	W 4 Sept	A. Fuentes	Sent by email
3	M 9 Sept	Century of the Gene	1-72
	W 11 Sept	Century of the Gene	73-148
4	M 16 Sept	Born for Love	1-71 / Office meetings 408 Hodges (outside class schedule)
	W 18 Sept	Born for Love	72-144 / Office meetings 408 Hodges (outside class schedule)
5	M 23 Sept	Born for Love	145-210
	W 25 Sept	NO CLASS	JP in NYC
6	M 30 Sept	Born for Love	145-192
	W 2 Oct	Born for Love	193-287
7	M 7 Oct	Brain and Culture	1-36, top 47, 56-57, 69-75
	W 9 Oct	Brain and Culture	86-137 / TAKE HOME MIDTERM ASSIGNED
8	M 14 Oct	Neo-Liberal Genetics	1-50 / MIDTERM DUE
	W 16 Oct	Neo-Liberal Genetics	50-102
9	M 21 Oct	Neo-Liberal Genetics	102-152
	W 23 Oct	NO CLASS	JP in Oregon
10	M 28 Oct	Mothers and Others	Ch 1 / SUGGESTED DATE FOR TOPIC / BIBLIO
	W 30 Oct	Mothers and Others	Ch 2
11	M 4 Nov	Mothers and Others	Ch 3 / GUEST LECTURE
	W 6 Nov	Mothers and Others	Ch 4 / GUEST LECTURE
	F 8 Nov		DUE DATE FOR TOPIC / BIBLIO
12	M 11 Nov	Mothers and Others	Ch 5
	W 13 Nov	Mothers and Others	Ch 6
13	M 18 Nov	Mothers and Others	Ch 7
	W 20 Nov	Mothers and Others	Ch 8 / SUGGESTED DATE FOR PAPER DRAFTS
14	M 25 Nov	Mothers and Others	Ch 9 / DUE DATE FOR PAPER DRAFTS
	W 27 Nov	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving
15	M 2 Dec	Student meetings	Instead of class: 408 Hodges
	W 4 Dec	Student meetings	Instead of class: 408 Hodges
	F 13 Dec		FINAL PAPERS DUE

REQUIRED TEXTS

Maia Szalavitz and Bruce Perry, *Born for Love*. ISBN: 9780061656798. Morrow, 2011.
 Evelyn Fox Keller, *The Century of the Gene*. ISBN: 9780674008250. Harvard, 2002.
 Bruce Wexler, *Brain and Culture*. ISBN: 9780262731935. MIT / Bradford, 2008.
 Susan McKinnon, *Neo-Liberal Genetics*. ISBN: 9780976147527. Prickly Paradigm Press, 2006.
 Christopher Boehm, *Moral Origins*. ISBN: 9780465020485. Basic Books, 2012.
 Sarah Hrdy, *Mothers and Others*. ISBN: 9780674060326. Harvard / Belknap, 2011.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course in the current research into the biological underpinnings and evolutionary origins of human moral psychology. It is not a course in moral philosophy (how to form and evaluate arguments about moral issues). Rather, it's about how humans evolved the capacity to form moral judgments and to be motivated about moral issues. The course is interdisciplinary, combining anthropology, psychology, biology, neuroscience, and philosophy. The course should be both an introduction to cutting-edge research and a chance to revisit perennial questions.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to (1) identify the key concepts and critical issues of the books discussed (measured by weekly writing assignments and by midterm essay examination); (2) conduct research into and develop a critical relation to the literature (measured by a 2500 word term paper); (3) meaningfully discuss the key concepts and critical issues of the course in leadership of and participation in class discussion (measured by instructor judgment).

ACADEMIC HONESTY: students are referred to the LSU Plagiarism statement:

<http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/Plagiarism.htm>

ATTENDANCE POLICY: students will be expected to attend each class meeting.

GRADING POLICY: standard criteria for letter grades will be used:

A = $\geq 90\%$ = excellent

B = $\geq 80\%$ = good

C = $\geq 70\%$ = competent

D = $\geq 60\%$ = poor

F = $\leq 59\%$ = unacceptable

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING BREAKDOWN:

20% collaborative writing and editing: We will form groups of three people each. Each Thursday morning one person will email the 2 others a 250-500 words paper on some aspect of the reading for the sessions of that week. The other two will comment on the paper using Word and send their comments to the author by Sunday noon. The author will then make revisions and send the final version of the paper to me by email (CC to the others) by Sunday night 10 pm (preserving the edits and comments of the others). Each person will thus get to be lead author for 4 short papers throughout the semester, and also edit 8 short papers.

10% class participation: We will often break into small groups for discussion. You're expected to have done the reading and to participate in these small groups and in general class discussion.

20% midterm take-home essay (topic assigned): 1250 words. Frequent and accurate citation of the reading material is required.

50% term paper: We will agree on a topic and thesis of your paper in independent discussion. You will need to hand in a topic statement and bibliography prior to a rough draft. You will need to do a draft before the final paper is accepted.

ENGLISH 2000: the course design and assignments fulfill the requirements for English 2000 in terms of research requirements, use of writing-to-learn strategies, technology use, and collaborative projects.

