

Fall 2014: Honors 2013.2 / Evolution and Biology of Morality / MW 3:00-4:20 / 216 Hodges
John Protevi / protevi@lsu.edu / <http://www.protevi.com/john/Morality/index.html>
16 August 2014

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 and articles 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 week each group will make one blog post to the class blog: <http://lsuhonors2013.tumblr.com/>. The blog post can have several types of content: it could be a summary of class discussion with added reflections; it could be a partial draft of a section of the term paper; or it could be a link and commentary to something on the web relevant to the course.

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.

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W	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (on website or on Moodle; URLs in Intro lecture)
1	M 25 Aug	Intro	Protevi.com /2014-Intro.pdf
	W 27 Aug	Epigenetics	Fuentes 2009
2	M 1 Sept	NO CLASS	LABOR DAY
	W 3 Sept	Epigenetics	Protevi.com /Intro_lecture_2.pdf
3	M 8 Sept	Epigenetics	Richardson et al 2014
	W 10 Sept	Neuroplasticity	Buller and Hardcastle 2000
4	M 15 Sept	Neuroplasticity	Protevi.com /Wexler.pdf
	W 17 Sept	Empathy	Van Anders et al. 2013; Heyes 2010
5	M 22 Sept	Empathy	Szalavitz and Perry, 1-72
	W 26 Sept	Empathy	Szalavitz and Perry, 73-148
6	M 29 Sept	Empathy	Szalavitz and Perry, 145-210
	W 1 Oct	NO CLASS	TAKE HOME MID-TERM: COOPERATIVE WORK
7	M 6 Oct	Empathy	Szalavitz and Perry, 211-322 / MID-TERM DUE by email 3 pm
	W 8 Oct	Niche construction	MacKinnon and Fuentes 2011
8	M 13 Oct	War and Peace	Bowles (background); Bowles 2009
	W 15 Oct	War and Peace	Fry, 1-64
9	M 20 Oct	War and Peace	Fry, 65-165
	W 22 Oct	War and Peace	Fry, 166-238
10	M 27 Oct	War and Peace	Kelly 2005; Protevi.com /APSA2013
	W 29 Oct	Social Selection	Boehm, 1-74
11	M 3 Nov	Social Selection	Boehm, 89-115, 133-169, 176-178
	W 5 Nov	Social Selection	Boehm, 199-209, 213-228, 267-281
	F 8 Nov		DUE DATE: Term Paper: Topic and Biblio
12	M 10 Nov	Social Selection	Boehm, 290-291, 311-314, 338-341 / Hirstein & Sifferd
	W 12 Nov	Cooperative Breeding	Hrды, 1-32
13	M 17 Nov	Cooperative Breeding	Hrды, 33-104
	W 19 Nov	Cooperative Breeding	Hrды, 111-141
	F 21 Nov		DUE DATE: Paper drafts
14	M 24 Nov	Cooperative Breeding	Hrды, 143-151, 175-177, 209-212, 233-238, 280-294
	W 26 Nov	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING
15	M 1 Dec	Student meetings	Feedback on paper drafts: 408 Hodges
	W 3 Dec	Student meetings	Feedback on paper drafts: 408 Hodges
	F 12 Dec	FINAL PAPER	DUE BY EMAIL 9pm

REQUIRED TEXTS

Maia Szalavitz and Bruce Perry, *Born for Love*. ISBN: 9780061656798. Morrow, 2011.

Amazon \$13 new. LSU BN \$7.20 - \$16.00

Douglas Fry, *Beyond War*. ISBN: 978-0195384611. Oxford, 2009.

Amazon \$13.50 new. LSU BN \$8.10 - \$17.95

Christopher Boehm, *Moral Origins*. ISBN: 9780465020485. Basic Books, 2012.

Amazon \$22 new. LSU BN \$13.05 - \$29.00

Sarah Hrды, *Mothers and Others*. ISBN: 9780674060326. Harvard / Belknap, 2011.

Amazon \$16.58 new. LSU BN \$9.45 - \$21.00

Totals: Amazon new: \$65.08 (plus shipping). LSU BN: \$37.08 (rent used) - \$83.95 (buy new)