Phil 109B: Ethics and Emotions  
Professor Kate Moran  
Spring 2014: Mondays, 6:30-9:30pm  
Location: Olin-Sang 112  
Teaching Assistant: Tyler Williams  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12-2p and by appointment

Course Overview and Goals

This course asks questions about whether (and if so, how) emotions and ethics interact. Our discussions will center around questions like: What is an emotion? Is emotion necessary for moral judgment or moral motivation? Is emotion detrimental to moral judgment or moral motivation? Do modern moral theories ask us to be impossibly impartial? Is there room for love and friendship within modern moral theory? What are the appropriate reactive responses to moral wrongdoing? What sense can we make of attitudes like anger, forgiveness, and gratitude? When should we forgive, be angry, or be grateful?

Course Requirements

Students Taking the Course for Undergraduate Credit:
- Attendance (10%)  
The teaching assistant or I will take attendance every week. Because we only meet once a week, it is absolutely essential that you attend each class meeting. Please contact Prof. Moran before any classes that you miss due to illness, emergency, etc.
- 12 of 13 weekly reading responses (40%)  
Reading responses are available via LATTE and should be completed 24hrs before the beginning of each class. The first of these will be due January 26 (for the January 27 meeting)
- Five papers, 4-5 pages each (50%)  
Beginning February 10, I will post a weekly paper assignment (there will be 10 total). Your grade will be based on your top five paper grades. Excepting the last week’s paper, if you would like written feedback on your papers, turn your paper in within two weeks of the assignment’s posting. All papers (including the last week’s paper) are due by 5pm on Monday, May 5.

Students Taking the Course for Graduate Credit
- Attend a weekly graduate session and lead a class presentation on one of the readings marked with * below. (30%) You should plan to meet with me the week before your presentation.
- Submit a term paper (70%)

Course Prerequisites and Assumed Knowledge

There are no official prerequisites for this course, and all undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to take the course for credit or audit the course.

However, some basic knowledge in normative philosophy will be assumed. You should be familiar with philosophical terminology (for example, the distinctions between necessary and sufficient conditions, and descriptive and normative claims), and with the basic arguments of Kantian moral theory and utilitarian moral theory. If you have taken Intro to Ethics or a similar course, you should be prepared for this course. If you do not have this background, you are still welcome to take the course, but you will have to do a bit of catching up on your own.
(2) All other readings will be posted on the course’s LATTE site.
I may add readings as we go on, but I will always give you at least a week’s notice if I do so.

January 13: What are Emotions?
Richard Wollheim, *On the Emotions*, chapter 1 (you can skip pp. 46-51)

January 20: No class: MLK, Jr. Day

January 27: What are Emotions?
Richard Wollheim, *On the Emotions*, chapter 2

February 3: What are Emotions?
Richard Wollheim, *On the Emotions*, chapter 3

February 10: Historical Debates about Ethics and the Emotions
(1) Selections from Hume
(2) Jesse Prinz, ‘Is Empathy Necessary for Morality?’*

February 17: No class – February Break

February 24: Historical Debates on Ethics and the Emotions
(1) Selections from Kant (available on LATTE)
(2) Jeannette Kennett, ‘Autism, Empathy, and Moral Agency’*

March 3: Historical Debates on Ethics and the Emotions
Peter Singer, ‘Ethics and Intuitions’
Selim Berker, ‘The Normative Insignificance of Neuroscience’*

March 10: Ethics and Impartiality
(1) Michael Stocker, ‘The Schizophrenia of Modern Ethical Theories’*
(2) Marcia Baron, ‘The Alleged Moral Repugnance of Acting from Duty’*

March 17: Ethics and Impartiality
(1) Bernard Williams, ‘A Critique of Utilitarianism’
(2) Sarah Conly, ‘Utilitarianism and Integrity’

March 24: Friendship and Love
(1) Michael Stocker, ‘Friendship and Love: Some Difficult Relations’
(2) David Velleman, ‘Love as a Moral Emotion’*

March 31: Reactive Attitudes & Gratitude
(1) Peter Strawson, ‘Freedom and Resentment’
(2) Barbara Herman, ‘Being Helped and Being Grateful: Imperfect Duties, the Ethics of Possession, and the Unity of Morality’*

April 7: Anger
(1) Selections from Seneca, *On Anger*
(2) Charles Griswold, ‘The Nature and Ethics of Vengeful Anger’*

April 14 and 21: No class – Passover Break (an optional make-up session for April 14 will be announced)
April 28: Forgiveness
(1) Chesire Calhoun, ‘Changing One’s Heart’*
(2) Pamela Hieronymi, ‘Articulating and Uncompromising Account of Forgiveness’*

Policies

**Academic Integrity**
You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University’s policies on academic integrity (see [http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai)). Faculty may refer any suspected instances of alleged dishonesty to the Office of Student Development and Conduct. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in sanctions including but not limited to, failing grades being issued, educational programs, and other consequences.

**Documented Disabilities**
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

**Emailing Papers**
I will accept a paper via email as proof that it is done on time, but you will need to turn in a hard copy in order to receive a grade.

**Glowing devices**
Since philosophy is concerned with argument and discussion, it is essential that we have a classroom environment in which these are fostered, not hindered. It is not essential that you write down every word that is said in class, so laptops – even for note taking – are not needed in this class. Typically, I do not permit any electronic devices in class, but since many of the readings are online, I will permit laptop and e-readers for that purpose in this class. **However, if you bring a laptop, etc. to class, you must sit in the front of the room.**

**Cell phones** should be securely stored in your backpack/briefcase/bindle bag for the duration of our class meetings. I reserve the right to call on any student who has a cell phone out during class.