

PHIL 390: A01
Philosophy of the Emotions

Monday & Thursday, 1:00-2:20

MacLaurin Building D110

CRN: 22480



This course introduces students to the Philosophy of the Emotions. We will survey prominent theories of the nature of emotions in philosophical literature, and how emotions might be assessed as rational or appropriate. We will then explore the 'reactive attitudes' – that is, a class of emotional attitudes many philosophers have defended as essential to our practices of holding one another morally responsible for who we are and what we do (e.g., resentment, guilt). Philosophers tend to focus on the negative (i.e., unpleasant) reactive attitudes; and given the significance and pervasiveness of moral wrongs and injustices in the world, perhaps this is no surprise. The final section of the course considers the nature and justifiability of more positive (i.e., pleasant) emotions in the face of our own and others' significant moral mistakes.



Dr. Katie Stockdale (katiestockdale@uvic.ca)

She/her

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy



My office hours are Monday & Thursday, 10:00-11:00 and by appointment. You can find me in Clearihue B312.



You are welcome to visit me in office hours any time. If you cannot make my office hours, please email me to request an appointment. I do my very best to reply within 24 hours (excluding weekends).



This course is *in-person only*. Class attendance is required, and lectures will not be recorded.



Our course website is on Brightspace.



All required readings will be available on the course website.

Territory Acknowledgement: We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Evaluation¹:



A	B	C	D	F
Superior	Good	Adequate	Minimal	Inadequate
90-100 (A+)	77-79 (B+)	65-69 (C+)	50-59	0-49
85-89 (A)	73-76 (B)	60-64 (C)		
80-84 (A-)	70-72 (B-)			



Course Components:

Discussion Questions (x6)	30%	Throughout the course.
Critical Response Paper # 1	20%	By February 7, 11:59pm.
Critical Response Paper # 2	20%	By March 14, 11:59pm.
Final Paper	30%	April 7, 11:59pm.

Students who receive a cumulative percentage of 50% or higher on the above course components are considered to complete the course.



All students have 5 allotted grace points. A 'grace point' delays the due date of an assignment by one day (with the exception of discussion questions). Grace points can be used in any combination without justification but cannot be reused or traded. To use grace points, clearly indicate the number used with your assignment submission. Late work after grace points are used will be penalized 5% per day.

Students are responsible for tracking the number of grace points used (I also track them). Any attempt to re-use grace points in the hope that the grader does not notice will result in a deduction of 5% in addition to whatever late penalty applies.

Other requests for extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances and must be made using UVIC's 'Request for In-Course Extension' form.² Students should submit such a request *before* the assignment deadline or *as soon as possible*. I will not accept late assignments after the last day of classes.

Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with accommodation letters through the Centre for Accessible Learning whose accommodations speak directly to assignment due dates. Please keep in mind that accommodations through CAL are not blanket extensions on all work or a license to submit work after the course has ended.

¹ For further detail, see <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/S1AAgoGuV>

² You can access this form here: https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-concessions-accommodations/request-for-academic-concession/forms/uvic_undergraduate_request_for_in-course_extension.pdf

Course & University Policies:



Accessibility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that requires accommodation, please approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Accessible Learning as soon as possible.³ Students who require academic accommodations must be registered with CAL to receive them.



Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are serious offences and will not be tolerated. It is students' responsibility to fully understand rules of academic integrity.⁴ Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or suspension. The University's policy on academic integrity is not limited to plagiarism. Hiring an editor without the instructor's approval, submitting a paper from the Internet, and having someone else write even parts of your paper are examples of academic dishonesty. You should review this policy in detail.⁵

In addition, you may not use Chat GPT at all in this course, for any reason, for the purposes of brainstorming, writing, or editing your assignments. You are here to learn how to think, create, evaluate and communicate. The assignments in my courses are designed to teach *you* these skills. I trust that all students in my courses will honour this policy.



Course materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. Material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials requires written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act.⁶ Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy.⁷ Evidence that you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

³ For further information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/info/accessibility/index.php>

⁴ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/help/citation/plagiarism/index.php>

⁵ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php>

⁶ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/featured/copyright/>

⁷ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/AC1300.pdf>

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Welcome!	Jan. 6	Welcome! No readings.
What is an Emotion?	Jan. 9	William James, "What is an Emotion?"
	Jan. 13	Robert Solomon, "Emotions and Choice"
	Jan. 16	Martha Nussbaum, "Emotions as Judgments of Value and Importance"
	Jan. 20	Christine Tappolet, "Emotions, Perceptions, and Emotional Illusions"
	Jan. 23	Alison Jaggar, "Love and Knowledge: Emotion in Feminist Epistemology"
Evaluating Emotions	Jan. 27	Robert Merrihew Adams, "Involuntary Sins"
	Jan. 30	Gabrielle Taylor, "Justifying the Emotions"
	Feb. 3	Justin D'Arms and Daniel Jacobson, "The Moralistic Fallacy: On The 'Appropriateness' of Emotions"
	Feb. 6	Berislav Marušić, "Do Reasons Expire? An Essay on Grief"
	Feb. 10	Christopher Morgan-Knapp, "Comparative Pride" Critical Response Paper # 1 Due by Feb. 7, 11:59pm
Emotions & Moral Responsibility	Feb. 13	P.F. Strawson, "Freedom and Resentment"
	Feb. 17-21	READING BREAK.
	Feb. 24	Jeffrie G. Murphy, "Forgiveness and Resentment"
	Feb. 27	TBD (Dr. Stockdale is at a conference).
	Mar. 3	Sukaina Hirji, "Outrage and the Bounds of Empathy"
	Mar. 6	Patricia Greenspan, "Moral Dilemmas and Guilt"
	Mar. 10	Shawn Tinghao Wang, "Shame and the Scope of Moral Accountability"
What if I Don't Want to Feel So Bad?	Mar. 13	Cheshire Calhoun, "Changing One's Heart" Critical Response Paper # 2 Due March 14, 11:59pm.
	Mar. 17	Luke Brenning and Per-Erik Milam, "Letting Go of Blame"
	Mar. 20	Brian Penrose, "Understanding 'Understanding' in the Reader"
	Mar. 24	Olivia Bailey, "Empathy and the Value of Humane Understanding"
	Mar. 27	Peter Goldie, "Empathy With One's Past"
	Mar. 31	Robin S. Dillon, "Self-Forgiveness and Self-Respect" (by Zoom)
	Apr. 3	Final paper workshop (class by Zoom) Final Paper due April 7, 11:59pm.