

PHIL 390 (A01): Moral Character
Mon & Thurs, 2:30-3:50, Elliott Building 060
CRN: 12748



The term 'moral character' describes what we might think of as a moral personality – the desires, emotions, character traits, and values that help make up who a person is, and to what extent they are morally good. This course addresses the question: what kind of person should I want to be or become, from a moral point of view? That is, what moral character should I cultivate and sustain if I want to live a morally good life? We will survey a range of perspectives in contemporary moral psychology that address different aspects of this question, from the question of whether we should be open-minded and civil to whether we should strive to be morally perfect.



Dr. Katie Stockdale (katiestockdale@uvic.ca)



My office hours are Monday & Thursday, 1:00-2:00 and by appointment. You can find me in Clearihue B312.



You are welcome to visit me in office hours to chat about the course or philosophy any time. If you cannot make my office hours, please feel free to email me to request an appointment (in person or by Zoom). I do my very best to reply to emails within 24 hours but note that I generally do not reply to emails on evenings or weekends. My pronouns are she/her; please feel free to let me know your name/pronouns as well.



Our course website is on Brightspace.



All required readings will be available on the course website.

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

Evaluation¹:



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



Reading Responses	25%
Critical Response Paper	15%
Term Paper	30%
Final Exam (take home)	30%



Please email me as soon as possible if you are facing challenges to completing course requirements by the due dates.

Course Policies:



Accessibility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are very welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Accessible Learning as soon as possible. Staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.²



Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individual or group work. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust, and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these

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

² For further information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research, and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution

Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor.³ Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension.

Note that the University's policy on academic integrity is not limited to plagiarism. Hiring an editor for your written assignment without the instructor's approval, submitting a paper from the Internet, and having someone else write even parts of your paper are all examples of academic dishonesty. You should review this policy in detail.⁴



All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act.⁵ Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic

³ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>

⁴ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php>

⁵ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/featured/copyright/>

Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300).⁶ Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.



The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to this experience, and the responsibility to help create such an environment. *The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.*

Please be advised that by logging into UVic's learning systems and interacting with online resources you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct, may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy. To report concerns about online student conduct: onlineconduct@uvic.ca.

⁶ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/AC1300.pdf>

Course schedule: Note that I may make minor changes to the scheduled readings. Students will be notified of any changes on the course website and in class.

1. Introducing Moral Character

- Sept. 8 Welcome!
- Sept. 12 Kevin Timpe, "Moral Character"
- Sept. 15 Timpe, Continued.
- Sept. 19 Nicolas Bommarito, "Imaginative Moral Development"

2. Engaging With Others: Open-mindedness & Civility

- Sept. 22 Nomy Arpaly, "Open-Mindedness as a Moral Virtue"
- Sept. 26 Cheshire Calhoun, "The Virtue of Civility"
- Sept. 29 Calhoun, Continued.
- Oct. 3 Amy Olberding, "Temptations to Incivility"
- Oct. 6 In-Class Writing Workshop
- Oct. 10 THANKSGIVING.

3. How to Feel About Other People

- Oct. 13 **Critical Response Paper due, 2:00pm to Brightspace**
Gary Watson, "Standing in Judgment"
- Oct. 17 Neal Tognazzini, "Silence and Salience: On Being Judgmental"
- Oct. 20 Barrett Emerick, "Love and Resistance: Moral Solidarity in the Face of Perceptual Failure"
- Oct. 24 Barrett Emerick and Audrey Yap, TBD.

- Oct. 27 Jesse Prinz, "Against Empathy"
- Oct. 31 Olivia Bailey, "Empathy and the Value of Humane Understanding"
- Nov. 3 Claudia Card, "Gratitude to the Decent Rescuer"

4. How to Feel About Myself

- Nov. 7 Jennifer Morton, "Resisting Pessimism Traps: The Limits of Believing in Oneself"
- Nov. 10 READING BREAK
- Nov. 14 Christopher Morgan-Knapp, "Comparative Pride"
- Nov. 17 J.L.A. Garcia, "Being Unimpressed with Ourselves: Reconceiving Humility"
- Nov. 21 Cheshire Calhoun, "An Apology for Moral Shame"
- Nov. 24 Jack Kwong, "Shame and Moral Autonomy"
Term Paper due.

5. Moral (Im)perfection

- Nov. 28 Susan Wolf, "Moral Saints"
- Dec. 1 Camil Golub, "Making Peace with Moral Imperfection"
- Dec. 5 *Exam Review.*
- Dec. 9 *Take-home Exam due.*