Psychology and Human Values
PSRV4900 R11, EP Seminar Online
May 26-June 25

Syllabus

Course Description
This course focuses on human values, with special attention to moral values, through the lens of psychology. As an Eloquenitia Perfecta course in the core curriculum, there is an intensive emphasis on verbal presentation and writing. Students will study pioneering theoretical work as well as recent research including evolutionary psychobiology, Freudian psychoanalysis, ego psychology, behaviorism, humanistic thought, structuralism, experimental psychology, and postmodernism. The readings will be considered in connection with students’ own value orientations with such related disciplines as philosophy, theology, history, anthropology, sociology, and women’s studies. We will explore the variety of human motives/goals; the origins and development of the person’s sense of right and wrong; the cognitive and social processes that enter into moral decision making; the function of values in personality; the role of culture, spirituality, and gender in the formation of values; research on why people diverge from professed values in morally challenging situations; how ethical virtue can be fostered in our personal relationships, work life, and social institutions; and origins/remedies for the problem of youth violence.

Topics
- Evolutionary psychobiology: The survival value and phylogenesis of morality.
- Psychoanalysis: Desire, conflict, and the troubled quest for happiness.
- Ego psychology: Emergent values through the life-span and in different cultural contexts.
- Behaviorism: Moral issues in the control of human behavior by rewards and punishments.
- Humanism: From need-satisfaction to growth, self-actualization, and transcendent values.
- Religious study: spiritual experience, religious conversion, and saintly values.
- Structuralism and feminism: The development of moral reasoning and interpersonal care.
- Cognitive-social theory: Modeling aggression and moral disengagement
- Postmodern perspectives: History, gender and social construction of the moral order.
- Social Action: Virtue and the responsiveness to others in our shaping of social life.

Eloquentia Perfecta Format
Students in this course will each be expected to contribute two professional level presentations during class time, including speech and PowerPoint. Each class will contain from one to three such presentations, followed by discussion. Two types of writing will be featured in this course: sharp expository writing and the personal/scholarly essay. Take home exams are of the first type, focused on classic writings in the history of psychology, and they will be evaluated for writing clarity and accurate comprehension of the assigned text, which will be discussed in class. Students will have the opportunity to revise the first take home exam based on instructor feedback. The term paper is a scholarly essay, which students will develop an original thesis in phases, with feedback at each stage, including an outline/abstract, draft, and final copy.
Readings
The following books are available in the bookstore and online (Amazon): Freud, Erikson, James, Maslow Rogers, and Skinner. These books make wonderful additions to students’ personal libraries. All course readings are available in the Fordham library and electronically.


Readings
Each reading assignment is to be completed before the class session in which it is discussed.

Class Presentations (2: 10-15 minutes each—Assignments listed below)
Each class begins with student presentations, on the personal biography, intellectual biography, and the assigned readings of the great authors. Each student is responsible for two (2) presentations in class, strictly limited to 15 minutes. All presentations include a verbal component and a PowerPoint presentation, which will be placed on BlackBoard to facilitate access to all students. Presentations of authors’ personal biographies require gathering material on the internet and providing an understanding of the author’s family life, personal development, educational experiences, interpersonal relationships, travel, and other noteworthy activities and live events. Presentations of the authors’ intellectual biographies provide the class with an understanding of the main intellectual contributions for which the author is known, with reference to the current state of knowledge prior to the author’s contribution, the influences on the authors’ work, the author’s main ideas, and the impact of the author’s work on others—how it shaped the field. Reading presentations address the following questions and issues: 1) Quote of the day: select and read a quotation from the reading that expresses one of its most important ideas, 2) describe the general problem, question, or issue that the author takes on, 2) briefly summarize the structure, logic and thesis (do NOT attempt to cover the entire reading—that is not possible in 15 minutes), 3) note one part of the reading that is especially personally interesting or valuable, 4) identify one part of the reading that may be difficult to understand. Personal and intellectual biographies should aim at interesting material and should not include long lists of institutions, degrees, and awards. Presentations should not overlap with the other presentations. For instance, the personal biography does not focus in detail on the author’s theories and the intellectual biography should not cover the material from the assigned reading in detail. Missed presentations cannot be rescheduled or made up.

Term Paper
The term paper may be written on one of the following topics, or on one of the student’s choosing (with instructor permission), assuming that it is relevant to the course. The term paper will require at least 8 pages to do justice to these topics, and students are encouraged to write whatever length paper is ideal for their project—there is no maximum page limit.

A. A critical analysis of one particular school of thought, or of two contrasting schools, relating to a general topic chosen by the student (concerning human values or morality in psychology). Such schools include the evolutionary, psychoanalytic, behavioristic, humanistic, cognitive, structural, feminist, constructionist, and ecological perspectives in psychology. For instance, a paper might focus on the relationship between gender and moral development, explore the debate between Kohlberg and Gilligan, review the research supporting both sides, and take a position on the issues. The paper would begin with an exposition of the chosen orientation(s) and develop a critique drawing on other psychological approaches, interdisciplinary considerations, and/or scholarly reflection. This paper should include an articulation of the student’s understanding of his or her own values.
B. A study of a selected contemporary problem that concerns society or individuals today, such as the those in the areas of poverty, international conflict, corruption of leaders, divorce, child abuse/neglect, steroids in sports, terrorism, advertising, globalization, racism, voter apathy, drug abuse, adolescent suicide, eating disorders. First, the paper should provide an exposition of the problem, documenting its presence, its history, the nature of its connection with human values, and possibly some ways it has been addressed by scholars and/or activists/practitioners. Next, the paper should use materials from the course readings in order to provide psychological perspectives on the values or ethical issues involved. One option would be to explore how different views within psychology approach the problem in contrasting ways. Finally, a critical commentary should evaluate the psychological approach(es) in light of the student’s own thinking, perhaps including knowledge from other courses and disciplines other than psychology.

C. An analytic, autobiographical narrative, along the lines of Hertz-Lazarowitz’s “Political Activism: A Case Study.” In this paper, the student would describe his/her own life experience with particular attention to the formation of his/her values and moral orientation. This description might include an imaginative elaboration of a possible future in which the student’s commitment to and/or later transformation of values is evident in his or her fictionally constructed continuing life. This paper should go beyond the autobiographical (including fictional) description by analytically applying ideas from the course readings and discussions in order to provide a reflective and critical commentary on the narrative. The student is encouraged to review all the assigned readings of the course and to determine which in particular are most relevant and fruitful in the autobiographical analysis.

Examinations
The course includes 10 take-home exams, each emailed to students after the relevant reading assignments. Students will have the option to choose between two alternative questions and write an answer limited to two double spaced pages (standard format). Answers will be graded on the basis of writing form, clarity of expression, and expository accuracy in comprehending the readings.

Grading
The final grade will be derived from the exams (50%), term paper (25%) and class participation (25%). The class participation grade will be based on attendance, individual presentations, and contributions to other students’ learning in the class discussions. Attendance assures the student of a passing class participation grade; adequate completion of 2 PowerPoints assures an average grade, and the quality of presentations and contributions to class discussion determine above average (good, excellent) grade.

Late work
All late work is accepted, with points deducted (passing grade always possible), through Monday, June 22, 2020.

Integrity and Attendance Policies
The Arts and Sciences Policy on Academic Integrity will be enforced in this course. Any violation constituting a breach of academic integrity will result in disciplinary action consistent with this policy. (http://www.fordham.edu/Audience/handbooks.shtml#7).

Unexcused absences may affect final grades. After two unexcused absences, each unexcused absence reduces the class participation grade by 5%. Excused absences are those due to
a medical issue or an emergency such as a death or serious illness of a family member, as corroborated by a note from a medical professional or class dean.

Communication with the professor
Office hours, chat, extra help: M-R, 9:00-9:30pm & by appointment on Zoom.
E-mail: wertz@fordham.edu.

Schedule

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Graded Work</th>
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<tr>
<td>Module 1: Biology and Psychoanalysis, May 26-May 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>T 5/26</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Homework: Exams #1&amp;2</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>W 5/27</td>
<td>C. Darwin on the phylogenesis and survival value of morality</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>R 5/28</td>
<td>S. Freud on happiness and civilization (sections 1-4) S. Freud instinctual desire and civilization (sections 5-8)</td>
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<td>Module 2: Ego Psychology, Behaviorism, and Humanism, June 1-7</td>
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<td>M 6/1</td>
<td>E.H. Erikson on 8 virtues through the life cycle, pp. 247-274 (Ch. 7: 8 Ages of Man)</td>
<td>Homework: Exams #1 &amp; 2 Due</td>
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<td>E.H. Erikson on Native American tribal values, pp. 114-165 (Ch. 3 Hunters Across the Prairie)</td>
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<td>Module 3: Pragmatism and Feminism, June 8-14</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>W 6/10</td>
<td>C. Gilligan on gender differences and the ethics of care</td>
<td>Exams #3-5 Due</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>R 6/11</td>
<td>B.M. Clinchy on undergraduate women’s moral development</td>
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<td>Module 4: Cognition, Development, and Constructionism/Postmodernism, June 15-22</td>
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14. R 6/18 J. Garbarino 1-94 on understanding and remedying youth violence

Module 5: Systems Theory Integration, June 22-25

15. M 6/22 J. Garbarino 95-177

16. T 6/23 J. Garbarino 178-238

17. W 6/24 Presentations of Term Papers

18. R/25 Presentations of Term Papers

Homework: Term Paper & Exam #10

Exams #8-9 & Late Work Due

Films: Milgram, Rogers, Animal Prison Programs

Term Paper & Exam #10 Due

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<th>Presentations</th>
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Psychology and Human Values    Class Presentation Assignments

Darwin reading  
Darwin Personal Biography  
Darwin Intellectual Biography  
Freud 1-4 reading  
Freud Intellectual Biography  
Freud Personal Biography  
Freud 5-8 reading  
Erikson 247-274 reading  
Erikson Personal Biography  
Erikson Intellectual Biography  
Erikson 114-165 reading  
Skinner 1-17, 56-62, & 74-77 reading  
Skinner Personal Biography  
Skinner Intellectual Biography  
Skinner 96-120 & 196-206 reading  
Maslow 15-22, 111-122 reading  
Maslow Personal Biography  
Maslow Intellectual Biography  
Maslow 125-157 reading  
Rogers 39-57 reading  
Rogers Personal Biography  
Rogers Intellectual Biography  
Rogers 183-196 reading
Psychology and Human Values  Class Presentations Sign-Up for open

James reading ____________________

James Personal Biography _____________________

James Intellectual Biography _____________________

Kohlberg reading _____________________

Kohlberg Personal Biography _____________________

Kohlberg Intellectual Biography _____________________

Gilligan Personal Biography _____________________

Gilligan Intellectual Biography _____________________

Gilligan reading _____________________

Clinchy reading _____________________

Bandura, Ross and Ross (1963) read. _____________________

Bandura Personal Biography _____________________

Bandura Intellectual Biography _____________________

Bandura (1999) reading _____________________

Hertz-Lazarowitz, R. (1992) _____________________


Gergen (1992) reading _____________________

Gergen (1994) reading _____________________

Higgins (1991) reading _____________________

Garbarino personal biography _____________________

Garbarino 1-119 reading _____________________

Garbarino 120-238 reading _____________________