

Moral Psych S 19

When do you feel proud? When are you ashamed? Who do you criticize as immoral and why? Who do you admire as moral and why? Do you have rules by which you live? Do you have rules by which your friends must abide if they're to retain your friendship? Which of these do you consider moral rules? What do you value? What do you dislike or even despise? How do these values (and "disvalues") relate to the norms or rules you embrace? Do you have a (religious or philosophical) moral ideology? How does this ideology cohere or fail to cohere with your judgments of yourself and others, your values and the rules by which you (try to) live?

(1) Use these values, rules, emotional propensities, and ideological commitments alongside reflection on your recent history of praising, blaming, criticizing and encouraging the people with whom you've interacted to **define, in rough terms, your moral psychology**.

Integrate this account of your moral psychology into a coherent, well written philosophical essay that addresses at least some of the following questions. **Full credit will not be awarded unless you engage with the readings, lecture notes and/or class discussions.**

(2) Are there any features of your "moral psychology" (understood as above) that are species typical and so "universally" manifest in neurologically normal humans? Are these the features that Hutcheson and Hume used to frame their hypothesis of the "moral sense"? How do these features relate to the psychological processes Darwin describes as "conscience"? If you think there are no moral universals (in the relevant sense) try to explain and use the absence of moral universals to critique the accounts of moral sense or conscience advanced by Hutcheson, Hume and Darwin as these theories are described on Handout #1.

(3) Do you draw a distinction between moral norms on the one hand and non-moral or extra-moral conventions of etiquette, councils of prudence, norms of dress, ritual etc on the other? Describe O'Neill and Machery's skepticism about the "depth" of this sort of distinction between moral norms and non-moral conventions. Do you agree that this distinction is not universally drawn? Does that undermine your confidence in drawing the distinction as you now draw it? Why or why not?

(4) Define the "externalization" of a norm, as O'Neil and Machery introduce this concept. Which norms do you externalize? Do you externalize all and only those norms you think of as moral? Which norms do you demand others adhere to on pain of losing your friendship? Must you externalize a rule to reprimand or punish people for breaking it? Does your morality, in this sense, set limits to what you will tolerate in a friend or acquaintance? Can you defend the norms you externalize with reference to your values? Are these values species typical or are they rejected by those who fail to share your moral ideology?

5-6 pages double-spaced, normal font and margins.

Assigned: 4/15/19

Due: 4/29/19