Psych 612. Seminar in Advanced Social Psychology: Ideology and Morality

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:30am-11:30am; or by appointment (email me)

Course Description:
This course covers empirical approaches to ideology and morality, two areas currently undergoing a resurgence of interest in social psychology. Rather than try to cover the entire history of these two considerable fields, the class will focus on getting to know the current state of the science: ongoing debates and unanswered questions. We will also get to know the people who are at the forefront of this science, focusing each week on a particular person's line of research and interacting with them in class via skype. The primary goal of the course is for students to develop their own research programs that bridge their existing interests with current work on the psychology of ideology and morality.

Course Assignments:
(1) Discussion Questions: Each week students will submit a discussion question or critique on the week's readings (12 total), to be submitted to session organizer (via Blackboard) by Tuesday at midnight. These should be between 300 and 600 words. These questions, plus class participation, make up 30% of the total grade.

(2) Leading Discussion: Each student in the class will be session organizer for one week. Session organizer will compile the week's discussion questions, organize the questions to promote class discussion (putting questions to be asked of the skype guest stars first), and lead off class discussion. A word document with the organized questions should be sent out to the class by 10pm Wednesday night. This task is worth 10% of the total grade.

 (3) Research proposal and presentation: The research proposal should raise a question/problem inspired by the class content and propose an empirical study to address that question or problem. The paper should be presented as an empirical report in APA format, and be 15 pages or less (double-spaced; 1" margins; 11-12 point font). In addition to the introduction and methods, a brief results section should report the expected result (hypothetical data), and a discussion should present the implications of the expected finding. Proposals will be presented in class November 18 and December 2. Each student will give a 15-minute powerpoint presentation of the idea, methods, expected results, and implications, followed by 15 minutes of feedback from the class. Feedback should be incorporated into the paper, which will be due at midnight December 15. The paper will count for 40% of the total grade, and the presentation will count for 20% of the total grade.

Course Schedule:
*Note: Readings not hyperlinked below (or linked with restricted access) will be available on Blackboard.

SECTION 1: IDEOLOGY

Week 1 (8/26): Introduction to course and researchers
Readings:
None

Week 2 (9/2): A Brief History of the Psychology of Ideology
Readings:
Converse, P. (1964). The nature of belief systems in mass publics. In D. Apter (Ed.), *Ideology and Discontent.* New York: Free Press. [reprinted in J. T. Jost and J. Sidanius (Eds.), *Political Psychology: Key Readings* – read also the 3-page intro to the ideology section]

Jost, J.T. (2006). The end of the end of ideology. *American Psychologist, 61,* 651-670.

Jost, J. T., Federico, C. M., & Napier, J. L. (2009). Political ideology: Its structure, functions, and elective affinities. *Annual Review of Psychology, 60,* 307-337.

Week 3 (9/9): Motivated Social Cognition and System Justification
Skype Guest Star:
John Jost, NYU

Readings:
Jost, J.T., Glaser, J., Kruglanski, A.W., & Sulloway, F. (2003). Political conservatism as motivated social cognition. *Psychological Bulletin, 129,* 339-375.

Jost, J.T., Banaji, M.R., & Nosek, B.A. (2004). A decade of system justification theory: Accumulated evidence of conscious and unconscious bolstering of the status quo. *Political Psychology, 25,* 881-919.

Jost, J.T., Nosek, B.A. & Gosling, S.D. (2008). Ideology: Its resurgence in social, personality, and political psychology. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 3,* 126-136.

Jost, J.T. (2009). "Elective affinities": On the psychological bases of left-right ideological differences. *Psychological Inquiry, 20,* 129-141.

Week 4 (9/16): Ideology and Political Expertise
Skype Guest Star:
Christopher Federico, UMN

Readings:
Federico, C. M., & Sidanius, J. (2002). Racism, ideology, and affirmative action, revisited: The antecedents and consequences of 'principled objections' to affirmative action. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 82,* 488-502.

Federico, C. M. (2007). Expertise, evaluative motivation, and the structure of citizens' ideological commitments. *Political Psychology, 28,* 535-562.

Federico, C. M., & Schneider, M. (2007). Political expertise and the use of ideology: Moderating effects of evaluative motivation. *Public Opinion Quarterly, 71,* 221-252.

Federico, C. M., Hunt, C. V., & Ergun, D. (2009). Political expertise, social worldviews, and ideology: Translating "competitive jungles" and "dangerous worlds" into ideological reality. *Social Justice Research, 22,* 259-279.

Week 5 (9/23): Motivation and Self-Regulation
Skype Guest Star:
Ronnie Janoff-Bulman, UMass-Amherst

Readings:
Janoff-Bulman, R., Sheikh, S., & Baldacci, K (2008). Mapping moral motives: Approach, avoidance, and political orientation. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 44,* 1091-1099.

Janoff-Bulman, R., Sheikh, S., & Hepp, S. (2009). Proscriptive versus prescriptive morality: Two faces of moral regulation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 96,* 521-537.

Janoff-Bulman, R. (2009). To provide or protect: Motivational bases of political liberalism and conservatism. *Psychological Inquiry, 20,* 120-128.

*Also read the "authors respond to two questions" section of *Psychological Inquiry*'s special issue on ideology.

SECTION 2: MORALITY

Week 6 (9/30): Moral Neuroscience
Skype Guest Star:
Josh Greene, Harvard

Readings:
Greene, J.D., Sommerville, R.B., Nystrom, L.E., Darley, J.M., & Cohen, J.D. (2001). An fMRI investigation of emotional engagement in moral Judgment. *Science, 293,* 2105-2108.

Greene, J.D. (2003) From neural "is" to moral "ought": what are the moral implications of neuroscientific moral psychology? *Nature Reviews Neuroscience, 4,* 847-850.

Greene, J.D. (2009) The cognitive neuroscience of moral judgment. In M. S. Gazzaniga (Ed.), *The Cognitive Neurosciences IV*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

Greene, J.D., Paxton, J.M. (2009) Patterns of neural activity associated with honest and dishonest moral decisions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 106,* 12506-12511.
[supporting information is optional]

Week 7 (10/7): Morality and Development
Skype Guest Star:
Paul Bloom, Yale

Readings:
Hamlin, J. K., Wynn, K., & Bloom, P. (2007). Social evaluation by preverbal infants. *Nature, 450,* 557-559.

Olson, K. R.,& Spelke, E. S. (2008). Foundations of cooperation in preschool children. *Cognition, 108,* 222-231.

Olson, K.R., Dunham, Y., Banaji, M. R., Spelke, E.S.,& Dweck, C. S.(2008). Judging the unlucky and contagion of those judgments. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 94,* 757-776.

Bloom, P. (May 2010). The Moral Life of Babies. *New York Times Magazine.*

Bloom, P. (in press). Moral nativism and moral psychology. To appear in P. Shaver & M. Mikulincer (Eds.), *The Social Psychology of Morality: Exploring the Causes of Good and Evil.* New York: APA Books.

Week 8 (10/14): Embodied Morality
Skype Guest Star:
Simone Schnall, Cambridge

Readings:
Schnall, S. (2005). The pragmatics of emotion language. *Psychological Inquiry, 16,* 28-31.

Zhong, C., & Liljenquist, K. (2006). Washing away your sins: Threatened morality and physical cleansing. *Science, 313,* 1451–1452.

Schnall, S., Haidt, J., Clore, G. L., & Jordan, A. H. (2008). Disgust as embodied moral judgment. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 34,* 1096-1109.

Schnall, S., Benton, J., & Harvey, S. (2008). With a clean conscience: Cleanliness reduces the severity of moral judgments. *Psychological Science, 19,* 1219-1222.

Week 9 (10/21): Experimental Moral Philosophy
Skype Guest Star:
Joshua Knobe, Yale

Readings:
Knobe, J. (2006). The Concept of Intentional Action: A Case Study in the Uses of Folk Psychology. *Philosophical Studies, 130,* 203-231.

Cushman, F., Knobe, J. & Sinnott-Armstrong, W. (2008). Moral Appraisals Affect Doing/Allowing Judgments. *Cognition, 108,* 281-289.

Knobe, J. & Roedder, E. (2009). The Ordinary Concept of Valuing. *Philosophical Issues, 19,* 131-147.

Knobe, J. (in press). Person as scientist, person as moralist. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences.*

SECTION 3: IDEOLOGY AND MORALITY

Week 10 (10/28): Moral Foundations Theory
Skype Guest Star:
Jon Haidt, UVA

Readings:
Graham, J., Haidt, J., & Nosek, B. (2009). Liberals and conservatives rely on different sets of moral foundations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 96,* 1029-1046.

Haidt, J., Graham, J., & Joseph, C. (2009). Above and below left-right: Ideological narratives and moral foundations. *Psychological Inquiry, 20,* 110-119.

Haidt, J. (2011). Chapters from *The Righteous Mind,* forthcoming from Pantheon/Knopf.

Week 11 (11/4): Ideology and Moral Conviction
Skype Guest Star:
Linda Skitka, UIC

Readings:
Skitka, L. J., Mullen, E., Griffin, T., Hutchinson, S., & Chamberlin, B. (2002). Dispositions, ideological scripts, or motivated correction? Understanding ideological differences in attributions for social problems. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 83,* 470-487.

Skitka, L. J., & Bauman, C. W. (2008). Moral conviction and political engagement. *Political Psychology, 29,* 29-54.

Skitka, L. J. (2010). The psychology of moral conviction. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass, 4,* 267-281.

Morgan, G. S., Mullen, E., & Skitka, L.J. (in press). When values and attributions collide: Liberals' and conservatives' values motivate attributions for alleged misdeeds. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin.*

Week 12 (11/11): Character, Emotion, and Motivated Moral Reasoning
Skype Guest Star:
David Pizarro, Cornell

Readings:
Monin, B., Pizarro, D., & Beer, J. (2007). Deciding vs. reacting: Conceptions of moral judgment and the reason-affect debate. *Review of General Psychology, 11,* 99-111.

Uhlmann, E.L., Pizarro, D.A., Tannenbaum, D., & Ditto, P.H. (2009) The motivated use of moral principles. *Judgment and Decision Making, 4,* 479-491.

Inbar, Y., Pizarro, D.A., Knobe, J., & Bloom, P. (2009). Disgust sensitivity predicts intuitive disapproval of gays. Emotion, 9, 435-439.

Pizarro, D.A. (in press). Bringing Character Back: How the Motivation to Evaluate Character Influences Judgments of Moral Blame. In P. Shaver & M. Mikulincer (Eds), *The Social psychology of morality: Exploring the causes of good and evil.* New York: APA Press.

SECTION 4: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Week 13 (11/18): Research Project Presentations
Guest Stars:
A randomly-selected half of the class.

Week 14 (11/25): NO CLASS
Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15 (12/2): Research Project Presentations
Guest Stars:
A randomly-selected half of the class.