

Module code: MOD006409	Version: 2 Date Amended: 10/Feb/2022
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1. Module Title
Moral Development, Reasoning and Decision Making

2a. Module Leader
Andrew Todd

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Cambridge Theological Federation

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	PG Cert/Diploma/MA Contemporary Ethics; PG Cert/Diploma/MA Contemporary Faith and Belief in the Global Context; PG Cert/Diploma/MA Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care; PG Cert/Diploma/MA Christian Spirituality East and West		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description
This module is compulsory for students taking the MA in Contemporary Ethics. It is accessible to students undertaking other MAs in the CTF, who wish to consider moral development and the role of reasoning in making moral decision as element of their programme's approach. This module will introduce you to different ways of thinking about moral matters and dilemmas within developmental moral psychology, normative philosophical ethics, neuroscience and art. It will inquire into such questions as 'what is moral maturity?'; 'what constitutes and conditions moral growth?'; 'how to achieve moral excellence?'; 'is good character enough for leading morally good life?'; 'how do we assess difficult moral situations and prioritise goods?'; 'how do we deal with moral incontinence or failure?' In searching for answers you will consult moral theories studied in the 'Foundations of Ethics' module. You will be helped to think in an informed and structured way about the meaning, role and patterns of moral reasoning and decision making within deontology, teleology, and virtue ethics. Selected moral psychological theories of ego, cognitive and affective development as well as contemporary discussions within social and neuro psychology will also be studied, to offer a contained interdisciplinary element to this module. Other themes for investigation will include: 'conscience and consciousness', 'moral luck', 'handling moral disagreements', 'arete and akrasia' (excellence and weakness of the will).

6b. Outline Content
• Issues of moral growth and what influences this growth (or the lack of it) • Engagement with key ethical concepts such as 'ego and self-identity', 'virtue', 'vice', 'moral failure', 'moral imagination', 'conscience' and 'freedom and determinism' • The meaning and the role of practical reason in decision-making • Models of moral decision making • Issues in meta-ethics, social and political ethics, artificial intelligence, neuroscience as well as moral education

6c. Key Texts/Literature
The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources
n/a

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate philosophical and psychological approaches to moral decision making and development;
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Formulate a conceptual framework for articulating moral reasoning and decision making
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Evaluate the use of conscience and rights language in public discourse
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Investigate a research question independently to identify appropriate ethical conversation partners;
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically and constructively evaluate moral reasoning and concepts;
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Handle sources strategically and appropriately to form coherent, critical interpretation and argument

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	10	1-3, 5-6	Once a week over 10 week trimester. (No Timetabling or Rooming implications as take place at CTF)
Other teacher managed learning	15	1-6	Seminar discussions following each lecture, once a week over 10 week trimester, with some preparatory activities for students guided by the tutor, such as reading in advance. (no Timetabling or Rooming implications as take place at CTF).
Student managed learning	275	1-6	Literature searches, reading, journalling, drafting assignments, preparing material for class discussion
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	100 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
6000 words Students will be expected to demonstrate all the learning outcomes in relation to their own research topic. Further guidance will be available in the Module Guide					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above

(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]