

# *Emotion, Value and Moral Cognition*

*Prof. Pawel Pijas (The University of Gdańsk, Poland)*

**Academic Year: 2023/2024**

**Semester: I**

**Credits: 6**

**Total lesson hours: 42**

**Teaching language: English**

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The lecture is devoted to the issue of the relationship between emotions/emotional dispositions and moral cognition/moral beliefs - in the context of both the classical and the recent literature in conceptual/philosophical psychology.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The lessons consist in three interrelated modules, the discussion of which will make it possible to analyze the relationship between the main topics, as follows:

- 1) Philosophical theories of emotion, with particular emphasis on the so-called componential theory of emotion, according to which paradigmatic instances of emotion have certain components (such as an intentional object or motive for action), but none of these components necessarily appear in every emotional experience.
- 2) Problems of moral beliefs: linguistic analysis, rationality/irrationality, similarities and differences with paradigmatic, non-controversial beliefs. The object of moral beliefs, philosophical theories of value.
- 3) Answering the main question in the context of more specific problems: whether emotions are necessary for moral cognition (if there is any) and possibly which components of emotions are crucial in this dimension. Analysis of relevant cases of non-standard emotional functioning: psychopathy, autism spectrum, neurological damage.

**Teaching method: lecture with presentation, discussion, case study**

**Grading: Master's Degree in Psychology**

**Examination method: oral exam**

**Office hours: 1 hour after class**

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### **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

1. Glover J., *Alien Landscapes? Interpreting Disordered Minds*, Harvard University Press, London 2014.
2. Goldie P., *The Emotions. A Philosophical Exploration*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2000.
3. Kristjansson K., *Virtuous Emotions*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2018.
4. Mitchell J., *Emotion As Feeling-Towards Value. A Theory of Emotional Experience*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2021.
5. Williams B., *Problems of the Self*, Cambridge University Press, New York 1973.

Additional materials will be given during the course.