

1. The Course:

It is a common view that responsibility presupposes freedom; that we are only responsible for those actions we were free to perform or not to perform. But what exactly does it mean to be free to do or not to do something? Do we really always have a capacity to do otherwise, and if so, in what sense do we have such a capacity? Or isn't human action rather determined (by beliefs and desires or even by the material processes in the brain)? Maybe freedom is after all an illusion? These issues and other related topics will be the subject of this course. In examining some of the traditional answers to the questions above we will also address some core notions of moral psychology: motivation, volition, reasons for action, and weakness of will.

2. Readings:

G. Watson (ed.), *Free Will*, 2nd edition (Oxford University Press 2003). [=FW]

This book is available at the UofT bookstore (Koffler Centre). All other readings will be made available through the Blackboard course website.

3. Schedule:

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| Sept. 9 | Introduction |
| Sept. 11 | Chisholm, "Human Freedom and the Self" (parts 1-11) (FW 26-34) |
| Sept. 16 | Chisholm, "Human Freedom and the Self" (part 12 to end) (FW 34-37) |
| Sept. 18 | Van Inwagen, "An Argument for Incompatibilism" (FW 38-57) |
| Sept. 23 | Excerpts from Hume (see website) |
| Sept. 25 | Strawson, "Freedom and Resentment" (FW 72-93) |
| Sept. 30 | Frankfurt, "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility" (FW 167-176) |
| Oct. 2 | Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" (FW 322-336)
(First essay topics will be given out in class.) |
| [Oct. 7 | no class] |
| Oct. 9 | Fischer, "Frankfurt-Style Compatibilism" (FW 190-211) |
| [Oct. 14 | Thanksgiving – no class] |
| Oct. 16 | Fischer, "My Compatibilism" (see website) (First essay due at 5pm.) |
| Oct. 21 | O'Connor, "Agent Causation" (FW 257-284) |
| Oct. 23 | Clarke, "Toward a Credible Agent-Causal Account of Free Will" (FW 285-298) |
| Oct. 28 | Kane, "Responsibility, Luck, and Chance: Reflections on Free Will and Indeterminism" (FW 299-321) |
| Oct. 30 | Vihvelin, "Free Will Demystified: A Dispositional Account" (pages 427-440) (see website)
(Second essay topics will be given out in class.) |
| Nov. 4 | Vihvelin, "Free Will Demystified: A Dispositional Account" (pages 440-450) |
| Nov. 6 | Clarke, "Dispositions, Abilities to Act, and Free Will: The New Dispositionalism" (see website) |
| [Nov. 11/13 | no class] (Second essay due on Nov. 13 at 5pm.) |
| Nov. 18 | Wolf, "Asymmetrical Freedom" (see website) |
| Nov. 20 | Pereboom, "Determinism <i>al Dente</i> " (pages 21-36) (see website) |
| Nov. 25 | Pereboom, "Determinism <i>al Dente</i> " (pages 36-45) |

Nov. 27	Nagel, "Freedom" (parts 1-4) (FW 229-245)
Dec. 2	Nagel, "Freedom" (part 5 to end) (FW 245-256)
Dec. 4	Albritton, "Freedom of Will and Freedom of Action" (FW 408-423)
TBA	Final Exam (2h)

4. Assignments:

Two short analytical essays (1200 words, 25% each); final exam (30%); Monday responses (10%); attendance, participation, and Wednesday questions (10%). All these requirements have to be fulfilled in order to pass the course.

"Monday responses": for every Monday session students will write 200-300 words on a question on the reading assigned to that specific class meeting. The questions will be posted on the course website no later than on the Thursday before the session. Essays have to be submitted during the Monday class. Late submissions (and email submissions) will not be accepted. Students will get a "plus" for each satisfactory assignment turned in. Each "plus" is worth 11 points to a maximum of 99.

"Wednesday questions": for every Wednesday class (except the last class) students will come with a question of their own on the reading assigned to that class. The question can be about a specific argument, a specific move of the argument, a problematic paragraph etc. The question has to be submitted during the Wednesday class. Late submissions (and email submissions) will not be accepted. Students will get a "plus" for a question turned in. Each "plus" is worth 10 points to a maximum of 100.

Essay topics will be given out two weeks in advance. Essays are to be submitted through the Blackboard course website. Papers submitted after the due date will be penalized 5%. An additional 5% will be taken off for each additional day late. Papers more than one week late will not be accepted.

5. Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence! The University regulations governing plagiarism apply. If you are not sure what plagiarism is and how to avoid it you should check <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

6. Email Policy:

According to the University's e-mail policy, all correspondence must be between addresses ending in "utoronto.ca." I will reply to legitimate email inquiries from students within 3 days. Please make sure you consult the course syllabus, other handouts, and the course website BEFORE submitting inquiries by e-mail. Where a question cannot easily or briefly be answered with a reply e-mail, I will simply indicate to the student that s/he should see me during the announced office hours. E-mail should NOT be seen as an alternative to meeting with the instructor during office hours. Nor should e-mail be used as a mechanism to receive private tutorials or to explain material that was covered in lectures you missed.

7. Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/> as soon as possible.

Instructor:

Prof. Martin Pickavé
martin.pickave@utoronto.ca
 (416) 978 6781

Office hours:

Thursdays 11-12 or by appointment
 125 Queen's Park (Lillian Massey Building), room 305