

Soul Beliefs: Causes and Consequences (Fall 2019)

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Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-3:00pm and Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 pm or by appt.

Undergraduate TAs

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Welcome to Soul Beliefs: Causes and Consequences (4 cr) We will explore the causes and consequences of various beliefs about the soul. We will discuss topics such as the self, mind/body dualism, evolution, culture, death anxiety, afterlife, religious and political conflict. I look forward to your perspective and experiences with the course material.

Course Reader: _

Ogilvie, D. & Hamilton, L. (2014) *Soul Beliefs: Causes and Consequences* Pearson etext. This is a collection of materials compiled by Profs. Ogilvie and Hamilton.

Course Website

The course is online aside from the 3 in class meetings and will be presented on <https://tlt.rutgers.edu/canvas>.

Course Materials

Course materials will be presented on the Canvas course site. You will also be encouraged to find related resources on their own and share these references in the discussion forum.

Course Goals

At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to

- Explain how life experiences shape people's worldviews.

- Analyze a contemporary global issue from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- Analyze the relationship that science and technology have to a contemporary social issue.
- Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.
- Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.
- Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.
- Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.

Grading Policies

20 pts	Introduction Quiz
55 pts	Quizzes (5 pts x 11)
100 pts	Mid-term exam 1 (50 questions x 2)
100 pts	Mid-term exam 2 (50 questions x 2)
100 pts	Take-home final exam
80 pts	Assignments
<u>85 pts</u>	Discussion posts (12 pts x 7-there will be 8 discussion posts-the lowest will be dropped)
540 pts	TOTAL

A: 486-540, B+: 459-485, B: 432-458, C+: 405-431, C: 378-404, D: 324-377, F: 0-323

Academic Integrity

You are expected to be honest with yourself and fair to your fellow students. We will enforce the University's regulations on academic integrity, and we ask your individual assistance in reporting any suspected violations to us or to the Office of Student Conduct. The University's regulations are appropriately strict, and if you are tempted to violate them, you should first read the regulations and potential consequences: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

The Camden Plagiarism Tutorial (INTERACTIVE):

<http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModules/Plagiarism/>

Consult *Don't Plagiarize: Document Your Research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident.* http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students>

Attendance Policies:

University attendance and religious holiday policies are at http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug_current/pg1354.html

An interfaith calendar can be found at

<http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/index.htm>

SAS attendance policy is at <http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/courses/registration-and-course-policies/attendance-and-cancellation-of-class>

Students with Disabilities:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Online Learning Tools:

Online Learning Tools from Rutgers University Libraries including Rutgers RIOT, Searchpath and RefWorks

<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/tutorials>

Optional: Academic Support Programs: <http://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-support>

Logistics of the class:

Welcome to Soul Beliefs: Causes and Consequences for the summer semester! Please take a look at the syllabus and descriptions of your assignments and contact me if you have any questions.

For each module, you will find video lectures, PowerPoint slides, readings, assignments, videos and discussions.

Because this is an online class, the recitations will be carried out on the discussion boards. For each discussion, you will be assigned to a group and required to post a response to the group topic by Thursday nights at 11:59pm. By Friday nights, you should reply to a student in a different group. This reply should contain new information from the lecture. Since students, and, possibly the professor, will reply to both of your posts, by 11:59pm on Monday nights, you will respond to anyone who replied to your posts. All of the specific dates can be found on the syllabus and under the lesson introductions.

These posts are to be discussions, not just isolated posts or responses such as “I agree” and “you are right” or just a question. Your posts will be graded out of 12 points based on quality and timeliness-please see the course site for the grading rubric.

By Thursday nights. **You should make sure to not include information that has already been posted to the group. Please add new information from the lecture material and feel free to include any experiences you would like to share.**

In addition to posting on the discussion board, you will submit 5 assignments. Assignments should be uploaded under the assignment tab.

If I cannot open your assignment, you will receive a 0. Do not submit Google Docs.

Your assignments should be double spaced, 12 point font include in-text citations and a reference page (if needed).

Final Essays

You will have 2 final essays due toward the end of the semester. Please make sure that you cite the lecture/reading in the essays (in-text citations) and have a separate reference page/ For the lecture videos, please use the format for podcasts which can be found below (year 2014).

Author (2014). *Title* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from:

Other formatting:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/03/>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/08/>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/09/>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/11/>

Please read the discussion guidelines and netiquette under the "Course Policies" tab and the grading rubric under the "Online Participation" tab.

You will have 2 in-class exams and a take home final consisting of 2 essays. The exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions each.

Quiz Questions

Each lesson will contain a quiz which is due on the discussion due date. These are 5 multiple choice questions (untimed) to ensure that you are engaging with the course material.

Please join in the introduction thread (located under the "Introductions" tab). I would like you all to introduce yourselves over the next few days. I look forward to meeting you all and working with you this semester!

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Short version: Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.

Longer version: Cheating on tests or plagiarizing materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and we will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction. The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy> I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work. To help protect you, and future students, from plagiarism, we require all papers to be submitted through Turnitin.com.

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.

- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution.

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
Week of 9/2	Introduction to the Course		See and download Assignment 1 on week 2 tab NOW . You will need the extra time in order to prepare.
	What I was told to believe		
9/6	MANDATORY IN CLASS MEETING	In class meeting- 1:40-3:00 in Tillett 226	
Week of 9/9	Historical Foundations of Soul Beliefs – Part I	Chapter 1: <i>A Partial History of Soul Beliefs</i> , p. 1-20 (Ogilvie)	Thursday 9/12- post and Quiz by 11:59pm Friday 9/13- reply to peer in your group and reply to peer in another group by 11:59pm
	Historical Foundations of Soul Beliefs – Part II	Chapter 1: <i>A Partial History of Soul Beliefs</i> , p. 21-36 (Ogilvie) Ted talk- Kelli Swazey: Life that doesn't end with death	Monday 9/16- all responses to your post and your replies to other students by 11:59pm Assignment 1 by 11:59pm
Week of 9/16	Historical Foundations of Soul Beliefs – Part III	Chapter 2: <i>The Evolution of Religious Behavior</i> (Wade)	Thursday 9/19- post and quiz due by 11:59pm Friday 9/20- reply to peer in your group and reply to peer in another group by 11:59pm
	Functions of Religion in Ancient & Modern Times	TED talk- Jonathan Haidt: Religion, evolution, and the ecstasy of self-transcendence	Monday 9/23- all responses to

			your post and your replies to other students by 11:59pm
Week of 9/23	Religions Under Attack	<i>The Four Horsemen of Atheism</i> Video Part 1 Video Part 2	Thursday 9/26- post and Quiz by 11:59pm Friday 9/27- reply to peer in your group and reply to peer in another group by 11:59pm
	Big Ideas and Big Controversies	<i>The Crime of Galileo and Scientific Revolution</i> http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1630galileo.asp	Monday 9/30- all responses to your post and your replies to other students by 11:59pm
Week of 9/30	Darwin's Dangerous Idea	Chapter 3: <i>Essays on Darwin :Ever Since Darwin</i> essays (1) Darwin's Delay, (2) Darwin's Sea Change, (3) Darwin's Dilemma: The Odyssey of Evolution, and (4) Darwin's Untimely Burial. (Gould) Chapter 4: p 99-104- <i>The Development of Evolutionary Science</i>	Thursday 10/3- Quiz due by 11:59pm
	The Mind-Body Problem	Chapter 5: <i>My Brain Made Me Do It</i> (Gazzaniga) <i>Did Your Brain Make You Do It?</i> (Monterosso & Schwartz) http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/opinion/Sunday/neuroscience-and-moral-responsibility.html? r=1 <i>The Mind-Body Problem</i> (Eliasmith) http://philosophy.uwaterloo.ca/MindDict/mindbody.html	Assignment 2 – Due 10/7 by 11:59 pm
Week of 10/7	Exam 1 Friday 10/11 Tillett 226	Friday 10/12 Exam 1 1:40-3 Tillett 226	
Week of 10/14	Terror Management (Prof. Solomon)	Chapter 7: <i>Tales from the Crypt</i> (Solomon et al.)	Thursday 10/17- post and Quiz by 11:59pm

			Friday 10/18- reply to peer in your group and reply to peer in another group by 11:59pm
	The Undesired Self	Chapter 13: <i>The Undesired Self</i> (Ogilvie, Cohen, & Solomon)	Monday 10/21- all responses to your post and your replies to other students by 11:59pm
Week of 10/21	Internalized Beliefs I	<i>Anatomy of Internalized Beliefs</i> (Ogilvie), p 1-21	Thursday 10/24- Quiz by 11:59pm
	Internalized Beliefs II: The Evolution of Senses of Self in Childhood	Chapter 8: <i>Religion is Natural</i> (Bloom) Chapter 9: <i>Mirror Neurons and Imitation: Learning</i> (Ramachandran)	Monday 10/28 Assignment 3
Week of 10/28	After-Life, Out of Body, and Disembodied: What's the evidence? (Prof. Musolino)	Chapter 10: <i>Psychology and Scientific Thinking</i>	Thursday 10/31- post and Quiz by 11:59pm Friday 11/1- reply to peer in your group and reply to peer in another group by 11:59pm
	After-Life, Out of Body, and Disembodied: What's the evidence? (Prof. Musolino)	Ted talk-Naomi Oreskes: Why we should trust scientists	Monday 11/4- all responses to your post and your replies to other students by 11:59pm

Week of 11/4	The Brain and Our Emotional Future		<p>Thursday 11/6- post and Quiz by 11:59pm</p> <p>Friday 11/7- reply to peer in your group and reply to peer in another group by 11:59pm</p>
	Thinking and Feeling	Chapter 6: <i>Unpleasantness in Vermont</i> (Damasio)	Monday 11/11- all responses to your post and your replies to other students by 11:59pm
Week of 11/11	Exam Friday 11/15 in Tillett 226 from 1:40-3:00	Exam Friday 11/15 in Tillett 226 from 1:40-3:00	
Week of 11/18	The Evolution of the Human Brain	Chapter 4, p 104-119 :Evolution, Heredity &Behavior	<p>Thursday 11/21- your post and Quiz by 11:59pm</p> <p>Friday 11/22- reply to peer in your group and reply to peer in another group by 11:59pm</p>
	The Biology of Thou Shalt Not	Neuroscience in Court (Kelland) http://news.yahoo.com/insight-neuroscience-court-brain-made-070322193.html	Monday 11/25- - all responses to your post and your replies to other students by 11:59pm

Week of 12/2	Evolutionary Psychology	Cosmides & Tooby, Evolutionary Psychology: A Primer, http://www.cep.ucsb.edu/primer.html	Thursday 12/5- Quiz by 11:59pm
	The Human Spark	NPR interview with Richard Leakey: http://www.npr.org/2011/04/15/135442954/richard-leakey-reflects-on-human-past-and-future	Monday 12/9- assignment 4
Week of 12/9	The Scopes Trial: Human Origins and the Public Classroom	Chapter 14: <i>Defeating Creationism in the Courtroom, But Not in the Classroom</i> (Berkman & Plutzer) <i>The Scopes Trial</i> http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/evolut.htm	Thursday 12/12- post and Quiz by 11:59pm Friday 12/13- reply to peer in your group and reply to peer in another group by 11:59pm
	The Dover Board of Education: Intelligent Design and the Public Classroom	<i>Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District: Teaching Intelligent Design in Public Schools</i> (Lee) http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/crcl/vol41_2/lee.pdf	Monday 12/16-all responses to your post and your replies to other students by 11:59pm Assignment 5
Week of 12/16	Where Do We Go From Here?		Final Essays due TBA

Assignment 1 – Due September 16 Talking About the Soul (10 pts)

According to a poll taken in 2008, ninety-six percent of adults in the United States report they believe each person possesses a soul and 82% believe heaven exists. This means there is a high probability that you and other people you know believe that souls exist and a large portion of that group believe in Heaven. But we don't have much information about what people believe comprises the soul and it is very likely there are many versions of afterlife beliefs. Your kick-off written assignment is to help fill in some gaps regarding *what* people believe about the soul, whether or not it survives death, and *how* they came to believe whatever they believe.

Here are the mechanics of your paper.

1. Write your own answer to the question, "**What is the soul?**" Define it as clearly as you can. (Note that there is no correct answer and you won't be graded on your definition). Then, **state whether or not you believe it will survive your death (yes or no is enough)**, and, if yes, **What are the options for its final destination?**
2. Interview three (3) people about their definitions of, or beliefs about, the soul. Ask them the same question you answered: **What is the soul? Does it survive death? What are the options for its final destination?**
3. On the final page briefly compare all four responses (yours and the 3 people you interviewed).

Please use 12 pt. font, double spaced.

Assignment 2 -- Due October 7 Darwin's Theory and a New Worldview (20 pts)

Charles Darwin refused to make a distinction between "higher" and "lower" species in his theory of evolution, arguing that all species, including human beings, are products of natural selection. He delayed publishing *The Origin of Species* because he knew that his ideas severely challenged basic assumptions about how human beings "arrived" on Earth.

Write a 2-page paper that 1) summarizes Darwin's theory of "descent by modification", 2) how "natural selection" contradicted the prevailing worldviews of his time, and 3) provide evidence that resistance to the theory of evolution remains strong in some sectors of our society 150 years after his seminal work was published.

Please use 12 pt. font, double spaced and include in-text citations and a reference page outlined in the links above.

Assignment 3 – Due October 28 Core Beliefs (20 pts)

The assigned reading titled *The Anatomy of Internalized Beliefs* deals with how beliefs about the soul can be transformed into unquestioned assumptions about how things are. These assumptions need not be conscious in order for them to direct the course of a life. But beliefs about the soul are not the only beliefs that can be internalized as assumptions. Early on in our lives or subsequent to childhood, we make various decisions about who we are. Some of these decisions can become enduring and persistent beliefs that can be transformed as basic assumptions that covertly guide our thinking, decisions, and actions. Some of these non-conscious "who I am" assumptions can be sources of empowerment. Others can limit what we

do, place restrictions on our relationships, and distort our self-perceptions. For the purpose of this exercise, these assumptions about ourselves will be referred to as *core beliefs*. If you are not able to articulate one of your core self-beliefs, select one of the above that comes close to describing how you sometimes feel.

In this assignment, identify one of your core beliefs about yourself and write a 2-page paper that includes the following elements:

- ? A statement of the core belief
- ? When and under what conditions do you think it was formed
- ? How it has influenced your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in the past
- ? How it currently influences your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors
- ? Finally, after you have thought about one of your core self-beliefs, consider (in writing) if it “makes sense” to keep it or if the time has come to revise it or let it go.

One of the most difficult parts of this assignment is isolating a core self-belief because core self-beliefs tend to be elusive. In fact, you might not be able to identify a core belief, but you will be able to locate one of its neighbors. It might be useful to review the following examples of core self-beliefs that students have identified and written about in the past.

- ? I am a special person, destined for fame
- ? I am courageous
- ? I am imposter – “I hope nobody ever discovers how weak and incompetent I really am”
- ? I am under-rated by people around me
- ? I am honest
- ? I am stupid
- ? I am unloved and unlovable
- ? I am a person who is consistently misunderstood
- ? I am polite
- ? Underneath it all, I don’t feel like I am a person of worth
- ? I am invincible
- ? I am unattractive
- ? It’s important to me that everyone like me
- ? Underneath it all, I am a phony
- ? I am outgoing
- ? I am a good listener
- ? I always keep my word

Please use 12 pt. font, double spaced.

Assignment 4 – Due December 9 Evolutionary Psychology (20 pts)

Cosmides and Tooby present the example that dung flies liking the smell of dung while humans hate the smell. Behind this example is an insight into the processes of evolution, both in terms of its time course and in terms of what adaptations do for us. Using the dung example or another one, explain, in a 2 page paper, why the time course and function of evolutionary adaptations are relevant for understanding why some of our thought processes are adapted to a hunter-gatherer society instead of to the industrial, technological age that we live in.

Please use 12 pt. font, double spaced and include in-text citations and a reference page outlined in the links above.

Assignment 5 – Due December 16 Soul Reversal (10 pts)

During the past few weeks, you've learned about different beliefs about the soul, how these beliefs have changed over time, and how they differ in the modern day depending on religious and cultural influences. You've also heard arguments declaring that there is no evidence that souls actually exist.

This assignment is a "what-if" exercise. Imagine a scenario in which your beliefs about the soul are found to be wrong. If you believe in souls, what if you found out that souls don't really exist? If you don't believe in souls, what if you found out souls really *do* exist? In a one page paper, describe how you'd feel, and if and how your life would change as a result.

Please use 12 pt. font, double spaced

Student-Wellness Services:

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

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process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:
<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

scarlet.listeners@gmail.com

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space. If you've got something going on and would like someone to listen, you can reach our to our partner hotline, CONTACT We Care, at 908-232-2880, or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which is open 24/7 at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).