

# **Responding to Moral Wrongdoing: Blame, Apology, Punishment, and Forgiveness**

**FIL 4300 – høst 2024**

**Christel Fricke**

## Course Description

We are all familiar not only with the experience of being victimized, the experience of suffering harm and moral wrong, but also with the experience of doing what is morally wrong. We know how hurt feelings, resentment and the desire for revenge feel; and we are familiar with the pangs of remorse and a bad conscience. In this course, we shall first inquire into the nature of the damage caused by an act of moral wrongdoing and victimization. Then, we shall look at different kinds of responses to wrongdoing, including blame, apology, punishment, and forgiveness. The aim is to understand what needs to be done to repair the damage and heal the wounds caused by wrongdoing.

Topics include the nature of the moral self and its vulnerability, self-respect and the moral respect due to others, the structure of the moral community, and the prospects of restorative justice.

These are all large topics, all of them intensively discussed by philosophers. Thus, the reading list on the leganto page for this course is long. It will not be possible to discuss all aspects of the topics on our agenda in detail. I shall put together a detailed seminar program with a shorter reading list at a later stage. The program is supposed to help participants to understand how different accounts of the various topics are interconnected.

I recommend those taking the course and writing a semester paper to focus on one of the various topics we shall be discussing and to explore it in more detail than we can do during the seminar sessions.

For getting the study points, I request regular participation, the submission of a draft of the semester paper, and the final paper.