

PHI 607: THE EMOTIONS

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Spring 2015, noon-1:50 PM
401 Straub (Monday)
250C Susan Campbell (Wednesday)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the emotions from functional, neural, endocrinological, social, and normative points of view. This course does not develop a general theory of emotion; instead, it's a tour of specific perspectives on particular emotions. We will consider the evolutionary history of emotions in humans and other animals, three functional role that emotions play in social and moral life (motivation, action-preparation, and communication), the rationality of emotions, and other topics. The course is highly interdisciplinary and should be of interest to, among others, graduate students in philosophy, psychology, marketing, religious studies, sociology, anthropology, and neuroscience.

ASSESSMENT

In terms of assessment, this is a standard graduate seminar. As academics-in-training, you need to develop the skills that are most important to launching and sustaining an career: scholarly research and the ability to present it. To that end, you will be assessed on one major piece of writing and one presentation, as follows:

term paper	60%
class presentation	30%
participation	10%

TERM PAPER

A research paper is due at the end of the quarter. The paper should be 4000-5000 words (roughly 16-20 double-spaced pages). In week 7, you will submit a thesis statement for approval. In week 8, you will submit an abstract for approval (200-300 words, roughly 1 page double-spaced). Finally, at the end of the quarter, your paper is due.

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Over the course of the quarter, each of you will also make one in-class presentation of roughly 20 minutes. The presentation will do two things. First, it will identify a single crucial item (argument, concept, theme, etc.) in each of the assigned readings for that day. Second, it will delve more deeply into one of those items. Think of your presentation as a cross between a teaching demonstration and a conference presentation. It makes sense to use PowerPoint or a handout for this, but not both

PARTICIPATION

This includes showing up on time, speaking up in class, paying attention to what the other students have to say, taking notes, asking questions, etc. Participation also includes weekly responses: you are required to email me an informal response at the end of each week. These responses should be between 200 and 400 words (1-2 pages double-spaced). The content of the response is up to you, but all responses should deal directly with the reading assigned for that week. You may want to choose a sentence or paragraph you found especially provocative, difficult, or remarkable, then explain why you found it provocative, difficult, or remarkable. Alternatively, you may want to argue that one of the authors is right or wrong in making some particular claim. Or you may wish to connect two passages in the reading that illuminate each other. You may even just pick a passage and ask questions about it. Your responses will guide what we address in class, and I will sometimes quote from them, so please take them seriously.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Please arrive at class having already read and pondered the assigned material.

Week & Topic	Day	Assignments
1: Introduction	March 30	Steve Kardynal clip Khatchadourian – “We know how you feel” Play with https://labs.affectiva.com/superbowl/affdexweb.html
	April 1	Class canceled (we will try to reschedule) In the meantime, please read the <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> entry on emotion (http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/emotion/).
2: Surprise, fear, and an almost fanatical devotion to the pope	April 6	Morton – “Epistemic emotions” Morton – “Surprise”
	April 8	Tappolet – “Emotion, motivation and action: The case of fear” Mobbs et al. – “Neural activity associated with monitoring the oscillating threat value of a tarantula” Lindquist et al. – “The brain basis of emotion: A meta-analytic review”

3: Contempt, anger	April 13	Contempt (and anger) Bell – <i>Hard Feelings</i> , excerpt Denson et al. – “Endogenous testosterone and cortisol jointly influence reactive aggression in women” Hamilton et al. – “Social neuroendocrinology of status: A review and future directions” Guest: Pranjal Mehta
	April 15	Cogley – “A study of virtuous and vicious anger” Tessman – <i>Burdened Virtues</i> , excerpt
4: Faith, disgust	April 20	Buchak – “Can faith be rational?” Roberts – “Dialectical emotions and the virtue of faith” Preston-Roeder – “Faith in humanity” Guest: Steve Bilynskyj
	April 22	Strohmingner – “Disgust talked about” Kahan – “The anatomy of disgust in criminal law” Kelly & Morar – “Against the yuck factor” Guest: Nina Strohmingner NB: I will be out of town this day.
5: Love, trust	April 27	Jenkins – “What is love?”
	April 29	Pettit – “The cunning of trust” McGeer – “Trust, hope, and empowerment” Krishnamurthy – “(White) Tyranny and the Democratic Value of Distrust” Guest: Jorah Danenberg?

6: Resentment, forgiveness	May 4	Norlock – “Self-forgiveness” Guest: Myisha Cherry
	May 6	Morton – <i>Imagination and Emotion</i> , excerpt Zeelenberg – “The use of crying over spilled milk: A note on the rationality and functionality of regret” Coricelli et al. – “Brain, emotion and decision making: The paradigmatic example of regret” Guest: Justin Weinberg
7: Gratitude, temptation	May 11	Roberts – <i>Emotions in the Moral Life</i> , excerpt Karns – paper in progress Guest discussion leader: Christina Karns NB: I will be out of town this day.
	May 13	Temptation Guest discussion leader: Elliot Berkman NB: I will be out of town this day. Email me your thesis statement.
8: Empathy, doubt	May 18	Bloom – <i>Just Babies</i> , excerpt Hodges et al. – “Giving birth to empathy” Guest: Sara Hodges
	May 20	Tucker et al. – “Critical periods for the neurodevelopmental processes of externalizing and internalizing” Kuhn – <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> , excerpt Guest: Don Tucker Email me your abstract.
9: Envy	May 25	No class: Memorial Day
	May 27	La Caze – “Envy and resentment” Timpe – “Envy and its discontents” Virtual guest: Kevin Timpe

10: Designing for emotions	June 1	Desmet et al. – “Appraisal Patterns of Emotions in Human-Product Interaction”
	June 3	TBD Paper due