

**The Nature of Emotions
(HPS 0605)
Prof. E. Machery
Fall 2005
machery@pitt.edu**

Class Meetings

11.00-11.50 am, Monday & Wednesday
Room: Posvar 1501

Recitation: Jonathan Livengood (jml47@pitt.edu)

1.00-1.50 pm, Monday, CL 129
12.00-12.50 pm, Tuesday, CL 139
2.00-2.50 pm, Tuesday, Allen 103

Office Hours

1017 CL
1:00-3:00 pm, Wednesday, or by appointment

Course Description/Goals

This course will examine selected historically important theories and portrayals of the human emotions and passions. The course will examine different accounts of love, hate, desire, anger, jealousy, pride, grief, etc., i.e., the affective dimension of human existence. It will look at how these dimensions of experience relate to ideas of reason, control, the will, decorum, and morality, and our knowledge of the 'sciences' of human beings. A number of questions will guide the readings and discussions. Which emotions or passions are primitive? In what are the emotions grounded: the body, the mind, the spirit? Can these even be usefully distinguished? What is the structure of human emotions and how do they function? What are the relations among emotions, personality types and behavior? Can one learn to recognize emotions, control emotions, change the way emotions affect behavior? How can one test or validate theories about emotions?

CourseWeb

We will use Blackboard for course announcements and to post the lectures notes (powerpoint slides). The slides will usually be posted on BB before the class. Please make sure to check the site on a regular basis.

Texts

Mandatory

Solomon, R. C., ed., 2003, *What is an Emotion? Classic and Contemporary Readings*, 2nd ed., Oxford University Press.*

Recommended

Damasio, A. R., 1994, *Descartes' Error*, Quill.*

Ledoux, J., 1996, *The Emotional Brain*, Simon & Schuster.*

Other readings will be available in the electronic reserve (**ER**). Modernized versions of the texts of Spinoza, Hume, and other philosophers can be found at:

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/>.

* These books should have been ordered by the Campus Bookstore and should be available for purchase there.

Assessment

Your grade will be based on your participation in the recitations, your 2 short assignments, the mid-term exam and the final exam.

In determining your final grade, work will be weighed as follows:

<i>Participation</i>	13%
<i>Assignment 1</i>	14%
<i>Assignment 2</i>	15%
<i>Midterm exam</i>	25%
<i>Final exam</i>	33%

Grading scale for the final grade:

97.0 – 100	A+	73.0 – 76.9	C+
92.0 – 96.9	A	69.0 – 72.9	C
89.0 – 91.9	A–	65.0 – 68.9	C–
85.0 – 88.9	B+	61.0 – 64.9	D+
81.0 – 84.9	B	56.0 – 60.9	D
77.0 – 80.9	B–	50.0 – 55.9	D–
		Below 49.9	F

If you have any question concerning your grades (assignments, exams), please, contact first Jonathan Livengood (jml47@pitt.edu).

Lecture

The class will mostly be a lecture, based on the readings. You should read carefully the assigned readings. You are invited to ask any question you want during the lecture.

Attendance is mandatory.

Recitation Participation

Everyone is expected to take part in the discussion during recitation. You should have read carefully the assigned readings. You are advised to take notes on the readings, singling out the main propositions as well as the arguments for these propositions. You

should also write down the questions you may have, since even after a second reading, you may not entirely understand the readings. Participation in class discussions enables you to gain a better appreciation of the material, a better understanding of the problems and solutions, and more confidence in your abilities as a scholar and communicator. Your participation grade will be based on your participation during recitation. Attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be checked.

Assignments

You are expected to write 2 short, 3-4 pages (typed), assignments (10/05 and 11/20). Topics will be given during the term. No late assignment will be accepted. Assignments have to be sent via Blackboard.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be held on October, 24 in the regular lecture room during the regular lecture period.

This exam will consist of a small number of questions based on the lectures and the readings. No notes or texts will be permitted. I will provide you with a list of possible questions about one week before the exam. If you are unable to attend the midterm exam, you need to offer evidence for extreme circumstances (such as a note by your physician).

Final Exam

The final exam will be held during the Examination Period.

The final exam will consist of a small number of questions based on the lectures and the readings. Two-thirds of the questions will be about the second half of the class; one-third of them will survey the first part of the course. As with the midterm, no notes or texts will be permitted, but I will provide you with a list of possible questions during the final week.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and will be checked at the beginning of each class. Unexcused non-attendance of 3 classes (lecture *and* recitation) will strongly reduce your participation grade.

Academic integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will **not** be tolerated. (The university's policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www.fcas.pitt.edu/academicintegrity.html>).

Special needs

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE
(Subject to revision as the semester proceeds)

Monday 08/29

Topic: Introduction

PART I: WHAT IS AN EMOTION?

Wednesday 08/31

Topic: Introduction

Monday 09/ 05 Labor day

Wednesday 09/07

Topic: Feeling theory (1): Descartes

Readings: Descartes, in Solomon, p. 20-30; Hume, in Solomon, p. 52 (paragraph “A passion ... which they represent.”)

Fall term add/drop period ends

Monday 09/12

Topic: Feeling theory (2): James

Readings: James and Cannon, in Solomon, p. 65-83.

Wednesday 09/14

Topic: Criticisms of feeling theories

Readings: Ryle, in Solomon, p. 199-206; Kenny, in Solomon, p. 217-223.

Monday 09/19

Topic: Cognitivist theories of emotions in philosophy: The Stoics

Readings: Texts in Solomon, p. 11-15 (top of the page only); Nussbaum, in Solomon, p. 271-283.

Wednesday 09/21

Topic: Cognitivist theories of emotions in philosophy: Modern philosophers

Readings: Solomon, in Solomon, p. 224-235.

Monday 09/26

Topic: Cognitivist theories of emotions in psychology: Appraisal theory

Readings: Lazarus, in Solomon, p. 125-130.

Wednesday, 09/28

Topic: Criticisms of cognitive theories of emotions

Monday 10/03

Topic: Hybrid theories in philosophy: Aristotle

Readings: Aristotle, in Solomon, p. 5-9.

Wednesday 10/05

Topic: Hybrid theories in psychology: Labeling theory

Readings: Schacter and Singer, in Solomon, p. 110-118.

Deadline for the first assignment.

Monday 10/10

Topic: Are emotions a natural kind: Griffiths

Readings: Griffiths, in Solomon, p. 284-290.

PART II: EMOTIONS, EVOLUTION, CULTURE

Wednesday 10/12

Topic: Evolution: Darwin's ideas

Readings: Darwin, in Solomon, p. 57-64.

Monday 10/17

Topic: Evolution: Ekman's affect programs

Readings: Ekman, in Solomon, p. 119-124.

Wednesday 10/19

MID-TERM EXAM

Monday 10/24

Topic: Evolution: The adaptationist perspective

Readings: Nesse, R.M. 1990. Evolutionary explanations of emotions. *Human Nature*, 1(3), 261-289. (ER)

Wednesday 10/26

Topic: A case study: Fear

Readings: Ledoux, chap 5.

Friday 10/28 Deadline for monitored withdrawal

Monday 10/30

Topic: A case study: Fear

Readings: Ledoux, chap 6.

Wednesday 11/02

Topic: A case study: Fear

Readings: Ledoux, chap. 9.

Monday 11/07

Topic: Culture: The radical views of constructivists

Readings: Lutz, in Solomon, p. 142-151

Wednesday 11/09

Topic: How to reconcile the evolutionary perspective and the cultural perspective on emotions? (1)

Readings: Mallon, R. and Stich, S.P. 2000. The odd couple: The compatibility of social construction and evolutionary psychology. *Philosophy of Science*, 67, 133-154. (ER)

Monday 11/14

Topic: How to reconcile the evolutionary perspective and the cultural perspective on emotions? (2) The CAD model

Readings: Rozin, P., Lowery, L., Imada, S., and Haidt, J. 1999. The CAD triad hypothesis: A mapping between three moral emotions (contempt, anger, disgust) and three moral codes (community, autonomy, divinity). *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 76, 574-586. (ER)

PART III: EMOTIONS AND RATIONALITY**Wednesday 11/16**

Topic: Are emotions appropriate?

Readings: Aristotle, in Solomon, p. 10-11; The Stoics, in Solomon p. 13-19.

Monday 11/20

Topic: Are emotions rational?

Readings: Hume, in Solomon, p. 52-54 (“Of the will and direct passions”).

Deadline for the second assignment.

Monday 11/27

Topic: How to deal with one’s emotions?

Readings: Spinoza, in Solomon, p. 41-43; Descartes, *The Passions of the Soul*, articles 41-50. (ER)

Thanksgiving Break**Wednesday 11/29**

Topic: Emotions as a component of rationality: A neurological perspective

Readings: Damasio, chap. 7.

Monday 12/05

Topic: Emotions as a component of rationality: A neurological perspective

Readings: Damasio, chap. 8.

Wednesday 12/07

Topic: Emotions as a component of rationality: A neurological perspective

Readings: Damasio, chap. 9.