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HIST 374
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305 COMENIUS

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SEMINAR: HISTORY OF EMOTIONS

History of Emotions is a research seminar on one of the most profound features of our individual makeup and its development during the last five hundred years. We will explore what are emotions? How were they used and manipulated? Could a middle class man have ambitions? Or a middle class woman? What was love? What were the institutions of love? What are emotives? What were the emotions and reactions of those men whose duty was to destroy all enemies of the nation? Why are Americans cool? These are some of the questions we attempt to answer in this seminar. Although European history (old or modern) will take central place, projects on the history of emotions in Americas are welcome as well.

Objectives. This is a research seminar with a broad historical theme. We have three main objectives: First, we will learn the main transformations in the history of emotions between 1400 and 1990 in the West. Who were some of the main figures in shaping emotional cultures? What were the main political, social, religious, cultural, and intellectual institutions that shaped and saved emotional cultures and styles? We will also tackle important questions of historical thinking. What are emotions? How can we know about the emotions of the past? Were the emotions of the past different from ours? How did emotions change in time? Or did they? Were there ruptures in the history of emotions or should we assume a long lasting continuity? What are some of the theories, schools of thought, and directions in the history of emotions? Finally, we will engage in historical research. How to analyze and interpret primary sources in view of their emotional content? How to read secondary sources (interpretations of other historians)? How to create strategies of arguing against these interpretations and how to use evidence? How to create an historical narrative that is sensitive to the variety of emotional expressions and experiences and at the same time provide a coherent account of the subject matter?

Research Paper. You will write a research paper of 20 to 30 pages based on a variety of primary and secondary sources. To find a topic and appropriate primary sources see me. I prefer a topic of your own choice related to Modern European History (1500-1990). Once you have found a topic and have some primary sources please check with me for their appropriateness. The writing process extends over the whole class. It starts with (1) choosing the topic, followed by (2) crafting a working bibliography and outline, (3) writing the draft, (4) giving a formal presentation, (5) writing a comment on another student's presentation, and (6) submission of the final version. I will read and comment on the draft and assign a tentative grade to it. The paper will be based on a number of primary sources and at least twelve secondary sources. **No internet sources are allowed** as secondary sources unless they are from JSTOR or Ebsco and are in pdf-format. Use footnotes and attach a bibliography sheet to your paper in accordance with the Chicago style. All the assignments have to be submitted in person in class. No email submissions are allowed. There will be no extension time for writing except in the case of a **documented illness**.

Paper Presentation. During the last three sessions you will have the opportunity to give a 15-minute presentation of your research topic. For each presentation there is a student commentator who will provide a one-page (300 words) written comment on the presentation and a short, seven-minute critical commentary on the presentation and paper. The rest of the time, eight minutes, is reserved for public discussion of the presentation. For the evaluation and expectations of the presentation and comments see more detailed instructions at the end of the syllabus. The presenter has to submit the commentator and me a copy of his or her paper presentation two days before the presentation.

Comment on Presentation. The commentator prepares a written comment of one page (300 words) and submits a copy of it to the presenter and another one to me. The commentator should find out the basic argument (thesis) of the paper. Is the argument meaningful and relevant in view of the history of emotions and its current discussion among the historians? Is the evidence good and compelling to support the thesis? Go in detail and ask critical questions. Try to find new perspectives to shed light on the topic. Finally, you should pay attention how effective and capturing the presentation is?

Exams. There will be one midterm exam. The midterm exam will consist of two parts. The first part tests your understanding of historical thinking and research in view of the history of emotions. The second part is an historical essay that tests your understanding of the content and your skills in creating an historical narrative in the same manner you write your paper. The midterm exam is based on the reading assignments. There will be no make-ups except in the case of **documented illness**.

Evaluation

Midterm	25%	Paper presentation	15%
Bibliography and Outline	5%	Comment on presentation	10%
Draft	5%	Paper	40%

Attendance. One absence is allowed. After the first one each subsequent absence lowers your overall grade for the course by a third of a letter grade unless you have a documented illness or a written explanation from your athletic coach.

Workload. This is a demanding and intensive research seminar. It has been designed with the expectation that you prepare for each session at least two (2) hours. Additional work is needed for your research paper so that the total **minimum weekly workload** for this class is **fourteen (14) hours**. For a good paper more work is needed.

Required Texts:

- Peter N. Stearns, *American Cool: Constructing a Twentieth-Century Emotional Style* (New York: New York University Press, 1994).
- William M. Reddy, *The Navigation of Feeling. A Framework for the History of Emotions* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).
- Norbert Elias, "On Transformations of Aggressiveness," *Theory and Society* 5 (1978): 229-42. (JSTOR)
- Peter N. Stearns and Carol Z. Stearns, "Emotionology: Clarifying the History of Emotions and Emotional Standards" *The American Historical Review* 90 (1985): 813-36. (JSTOR)
- Heikki Lempa, "The Spa: Emotional Economy and Social Classes in Nineteenth-Century Pyrmont" in *Central European History* 1:2002, 37-73. (Handout)

Film:

- Ang Lee, *Sense and Sensibility* (Culver City: Columbia, 1996).

Schedule

Jan 18	Introduction: Sense and Sensibility// Lee	
Jan 25	What is history of emotions?/ Stearns, “Emotionology” Questions: What is emotionology? What are emotional standards? Can emotions be studied historically?	Due: Topics
I. Court society, 1400-1780		
Feb 1	From Medieval to Early Modern emotions and the notion of emotives/ Elias, “Transformations”; Reddy, <i>The Navigation of Feeling</i> , pp. 96-111.	
Feb 8	Emotional order in France, 1700-1780/ Reddy, <i>The Navigation of Feeling</i> , ch 5	
II. Classical bourgeois society, 1700-1900		
Feb 15	Emotions in making the French Revolution/ Reddy, <i>The Navigation of Feeling</i> , ch 6	Due: Bibliography and Outline
Feb 22	Romanticism/ Reddy, <i>The Navigation of Feeling</i> , ch 7	
March 1	How to write history of emotions?/ Close reading of Lempa, “The Spa: Emotional Economy and Social Classes in Nineteenth-Century Pymont”	
III. Modern mass society, 1870-		
March 15	Victorian Style of Emotion in America/ Stearns, <i>American Cool</i> , chs 1,2,3	
March 22	The New Emotional Style/ Stearns, <i>American Cool</i> , chs 4, 5	Due: Draft
March 29	Emotional Management/ Stearns, <i>American Cool</i> , chs 6, 7, 8, 10	
April 5	Midterm	
April 12	Paper Presentations	
April 19	Paper Presentations	
April 26	Paper Presentations	Due: Final Version

Evaluation of the Paper Presentation

1. Mastery of Content	A	B	C	D
2. Clarity of Thesis	A	B	C	D
3. Performance	A	B	C	D
4. Total	A	B	C	D

1. A student masters the content if he or she
 - a. knows the pertinent facts,

- b. has a command over the main interpretations of the theme, and
 - c. shows skills of using important details in elaborating arguments
2. A student makes a clear and strong thesis if
 - a. her or his argument is clearly recognizable
 - b. he or she can support it with the sources available
 - c. she or he is consequent in supporting the thesis
 3. Performance is good if
 - a. the argument is made with clarity
 - b. it is lively, and
 - c. several students participate in ensuing discussion.

Evaluation of the Comment

1. Identification of Thesis	A	B	C	D
2. Discussion of Thesis	A	B	C	D
3. Discussion of Evidence	A	B	C	D
4. Total	A	B	C	D

1. A student has been able to find the thesis if she or he
 - a. can phrase it
 - b. can critique it
2. A student has been able to discuss the thesis if he or she
 - a. can critique it
 - b. can put it in the context of the discussion on the history of emotions
3. A student has been able to discuss the evidence if
 - a. he or she can identify the most crucial pieces of evidence
 - b. critique the use of evidence

General Guidelines for Paper

The length of your paper is 20 to 25 pages with a significant number of primary sources (3 to 5 texts) and several important secondary sources (at least 6 historical research articles and 6 books). A good paper has a structure as following:

- I. Beginning
- II. Middle/ Body
- III. End/ Conclusion
- IV. Bibliography

The beginning of your paper is an important part of your study. First, mention the thesis that you will prove in your paper. Second, introduce **three important interpretations** of other historians who have studied your topic and shortly discuss your take on these interpretations. Detail discussion of these interpretations takes place in the body. Finally, in two or three lines, mention how you will proceed in your paper, how you break down your main thesis into smaller theses to be discussed in individual sections of the paper.

The middle is the bulk of your paper. Discuss systematically, in compact paragraphs, each of the main themes that you find essential in your primary sources and that support your argument. Contrast your own interpretation with other interpretations (those you already mentioned in the introduction). Be critical in reading the other interpretations and try to **disagree** with them as much as possible. Move on to support your disagreement and your own point by providing evidence that shows how your interpretation is better than the others. It does not matter if you cannot provide exhaustive evidence for your argument. But it matters that you disagree and support your own thesis.

The conclusion is an important section of your paper. Pull the threads of your research together and tell your audience what are your findings, i.e., what was your argument and how did the data from the primary source support it. It is also important that you mention the limitations of your findings. You haven't explained everything but only a fragment of a large problem confined to its time, place, and your narrow source base. You can also now make specific suggestions for further research.