

## Psychology 375

Seminar in Personality/Social Psychology:

The Social Psychology of Emotion

Spring2008



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Class meets on M and W 11:25am – 12:40pm in Hurd 235  
Office hours: MW 1:30-3pm; F 8:30-10:30am

Emotions—subjective feelings that prepare us for action—are an essential, undeniable part of what it means to be human. Our emotions have consequences for ourselves (we feel happy or sad, angry or disgusted) and for others (we love, we hate). Ironically, perhaps, contemporary psychology only recently “rediscovered” the important role emotions play in social life; we need passion as much as we do reason. To understand emotion in our own lives and social life generally, we will discuss current theory and empirical research drawn from personality and social psychology.

**Required Readings** (available in the College Bookstore):

*Course Reader* (Collection of articles).

Hochschild, A. R. (2003). *The managed heart: Commercialization of human feeling* (20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ed.). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Oatley, K., Keltner, D., & Jenkins, J. M. (2006). *Understanding emotions* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). London: Blackwell.

## Course Requirements

*Attendance and participation.* Our class is a seminar. Your active, engaged, and on-going participation is essential to the success of the class. To that end, I will be taking role daily. An undue number of absences will lower your final course grade.

*Short papers.* Two short (5 pages each) paper assignments are noted in the syllabus. These papers are meant to reflect your reactions to two specific readings (i.e., William James's thoughts on emotion, Hochschild's book on emotion work). Include APA style references on an attached References list. Be prepared to discuss your papers in class the day they are due (due dates are noted in the course schedule).

*Research paper.* Each student will write his or her own APA style empirical paper or literature review paper. If you choose the former option, then you should design and execute some research project that examines emotion from a social psychological perspective. You may work in a small group and I will help you to create an experiment, quasi-experiment, or field study addressing a topic in emotion. If you choose to write a review paper, then you need to systematically summarize some area of the emotion literature in social psychology or from a social psychological perspective.

Please note that I must know the nature of your paper (empirical or review) and the topical area no later than *February 11, 2008*. On that day, please submit a 1-page summary of your topic, any key references you have found, and whether the paper will be an empirical investigation or a review. We will discuss the research paper assignment in more detail during class.

You will write a 15 to 20 page (double-spaced, APA style) research paper on some topic in the social psychology of emotion. There are four steps to this project—the due dates for each step are noted in the course schedule.

*Step 1.* Submit a preliminary list of references on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Your list should contain *at least* 10 references (articles, books, book chapters). Please be sure your list is written in APA style. I anticipate your final paper will have 15 to 20 good quality references. By all means use PsycINFO to search for relevant articles, but keep in mind that sometimes the best approach is to go to the periodical room and examine recent issues of social psychology journals (try recent issues of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *Psychological Science*, among other journals that publish social psychological research). I've attached a complete list of social psychology journals at the end of this syllabus.

*Step 2.* Bring five copies of the outline for your paper to class on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Your outline should have a working title for the paper, your thesis statement (the paper's purpose), key sections pertaining to the literature review or empirical paper (with supporting references), etc. We will use some of class time that day for a writing workshop where we all look over the proposed outlines, make suggestions, etc.

*Suggestion:* Take your outline to the Writing Center for peer feedback and make necessary changes before you share it with our class.

*Step 3.* Bring five copies of the rough draft of your paper to class on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Your rough draft should be based on your outline (which may have been substantially revised) and include a title page, Abstract page, the literature review or empirical paper sections (i.e., introduction, Method, Results, Discussion), References, and any other necessary materials. We will use some of class time that day for a writing workshop where we all look over the rough drafts in order to offer critical comments designed to improve the paper. *Suggestion:* Make an appointment at the Writing Center to have a tutor go over and improve your draft before you bring it to class. After you revise your draft based on class comments, take the revision back to the Writing Center for additional comments.

*Step 4.* Submit the final paper to me in class on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Policy on late papers or paper-related assignments-please read this carefully.* Late papers or assignments related to the research paper (topic, reference list, outline, rough draft, final paper) will be accepted for no more than three days after the due date. The penalty for a late paper is 1 complete letter grade reduction for each day a paper is late (the first drop in a grade occurs once I collect the assignment, usually at the start of class). After the three days are over, a grade of “0” will be given for the missed assignments. No exceptions will be made to this rule, even in the case of legitimate and documented excuses, technical difficulties (e.g., computer or car), weather issues, and personal problems. *You should be working on your project on an on-going basis so that you will always have something to submit.* You may *not* email an assignment to me unless we discuss it and I inform you that I will accept it. I want hard copies of all work to be submitted by you in class. For example, I will not accept an assignment that is emailed to me while the class is meeting.

*Suggested writing sources.* Outlining, drafting, and learning to adhere to APA style are discussed in my book on writing:

Dunn, D. S. (2008). *A Short Guide to Writing about Psychology* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Pearson Longman.

See also:

Sternberg, R. J. (Ed.). (2000). *Guide to publishing in psychology journals*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

The writing of literature review papers is discussed in detail in:

Baumeister, R. F., & Leary, M. R. (1997). Writing narrative literature reviews. *Review of General Psychology*, 1 (3), 311-320.

Eisenberg, N. (2000). Writing a literature review. In R. J. Sternberg (Ed.), *Guide to publishing in psychology journals* (pp. 17-34). New York: Cambridge University Press.

*Examinations.* There are two exams, an in-class midterm on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, and a take-home final exam (due date to be announced later). Both exams will be comprised of essay questions relating to class readings and discussions. We will discuss the format of each test in detail during class. A missed exam will be recorded as a zero (0) grade. Make-up exams will be given at my discretion, and valid evidence for the absence will be required (e.g., emergency, documented medical excuse).

*Plagiarism and cheating.* Your work must be your own. The College has a detailed plagiarism policy. I assume you are already familiar with it. I am happy to discuss it with you if you have questions. I will follow it to the letter. Please visit: <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic2.htm> to view the policy.

*Grading.* Final grades will be weighted as follows:

Midterm exam (in class)	= 15%
Final exam (take home)	= 15%
Class participation	= 15%
Short papers (2 @ 10%)	= 20%
APA style research paper	
Topic	= 5%
References list	= 5%
Outline	= 5%
Rough draft	= 5%
Final paper	= 15%

I will use the following grading scale for course work:

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Grade Range</i>
A	100	95-100
A-	92	90-94
B+	88	87-89
B	85	83-86
B-	81	80-82
C+	78	77-79
C	75	73-76
C-	71	70-72
D+	68	67-69
D	65	63-66
D-	61	60-62
F	0	0-59

## Readings in Course Reader

(Due Dates noted in Syllabus)

1. James, W. (1884). What is an emotion? *Mind*, 9, No. 34, April, 188-205.
2. Ekman, P. (1993). Facial expression and emotion. *American Psychologist*, 48 (4), 384-392.
3. Keltner, D., & Anderson, C. (2000). Saving face for Darwin: The functions and uses of embarrassment. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 9 (6), 187-192.
4. Schachter, S., & Singer, J. E. (1962). Cognitive, social, and physiological determinants of emotional state. *Psychological Review*, 69 (5), 379-399.
5. Keltner, D., & Haidt, J. (1999). Social functions of emotions at four levels of analysis. *Cognition and Emotion*, 13 (3), 505-521.
6. Carstensen, L. L., Pasupathis, M., Mayr, U., & Nesselroade, J. R. (2000). Emotional experiences in everyday life across the adult life span. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 79 (4), 644-655.
7. Lerner, J. S., Gonzalez, R. M., Small, D. A., & Fischhoff, B. (2003). Effects of fear and anger on perceived risks of terrorism: A national field experiment. *Psychological Science*, 14 (2), 144-150.
8. Wilson, T. D., & Gilbert, D. T. (2005). Affective forecasting: Knowing what to want. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 14 (3), 131-134.
9. Kurtz, J. L., Wilson, T. D., & Gilbert, D. T. (2007). Quantity versus uncertainty: When winning one prize is better than winning two. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 43, 979-985.
10. Slovic, P. (2007). "If I look at the mass I will never act": Psychic numbing and genocide. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 2 (2), 79-95.

I anticipate following this schedule, however, I reserve the right to change it if the need arises (e.g., inclement weather).

### Class Schedule for Spring 2008

M Jan 14	Organizational Meeting/Course Overview	
W Jan 16	What <i>is</i> an emotion? Wm. James's view	Reading 1
M Jan 21	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Class Meeting</i>	
(T Jan 22)	Last Day for Class Changes	
W Jan 23	What is an emotion? Your view <i>*Short Paper 1 due</i>	
M Jan 28	Understanding emotions	OKJ ch. 1
W Jan 30	Evolution of emotions	OKJ ch. 2
M Feb 4	Culture	OKJ ch. 3
W Feb 6	<i>The Managed Heart I</i>	Hochschild chs. 1-3
M Feb 11	<i>The Managed Heart II</i> <i>*Research paper topic due</i>	Hochschild chs. 4-6
W Feb 13	<i>The Managed Heart III</i> <b>No Class Meeting</b>	Hochschild 7-9; Afterword
M Feb 18	Communicating emotion <i>*Short Paper 2:</i> <i>When do you do emotion work?</i>	OKJ ch. 4
W Feb 20	Display of emotion	Reading 2, 3
M Feb 25	<i>Midterm Exam</i>	
W Feb 27	Bodily changes <i>*Preliminary Reference List Due</i>	OKJ ch. 5 Reading 4
F Feb 29	<b><i>Midterm Point of the Semester</i></b>	
Sa Mar 1 – Su Mar 9	<b><i>Spring Break</i></b>	
M Mar 10	Emotions and the brain	OKJ ch. 6

W Mar 12	Emotion as appraisal	OKJ ch. 7 Reading 5
M Mar 17	Emotion and childhood	OKJ ch. 8
W Mar 19	Social relationships <i>*Outline of Research Paper Due</i>	OKJ ch. 9
F Mar 21 – M Mar 24 <b><i>Easter Break</i></b>		
(T Mar 25)	Classes Resume	
W Mar 26	Emotion and cognition	OKJ ch. 10
(F Mar 28)	Last Day for Class Withdrawal with a W	
M Mar 31	Individual differences	OKJ ch. 11
W Apr 2	Emotions and mental health: Child	OKJ ch. 12 Reading 6
M Apr 7	Emotions and mental health: Adult <i>*Rough Draft of Research Paper Due</i>	OKJ ch. 13 Reading 7
W Apr 9	Emotion and Art	
M Apr 14	Eclectic perspectives	OKJ ch. 14
W Apr 16	Affective forecasting <i>*Final Project Papers Due</i>	Readings 8, 9
M Apr 21	Emotional numbing <i>*Take Home Final Exam Available</i>	Reading 10
W Apr 23	Last class: Wrapping up	
Sa Apr 26	Classes End	
M Apr 28 – Sa May 3 <b><i>Final Exam Period</i></b>		
M May 5	May Term 2008 Begins	

*Due Date and Time for the Take-Home Final TBA*

Have a relaxing summer . . .

## Major Journals in Social Psychology

Asian Journal of Social Psychology  
Basic and Applied Social Psychology  
British Journal of Social Psychology  
European Journal of Social Psychology  
European Review of Social Psychology  
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology  
Journal of Personality  
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology  
Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology  
Journal of Social and Personal Relationships  
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin  
Personality and Social Psychology Review  
Representative Research in Social Psychology  
Social Behavior and Personality  
Social Cognition  
Social Psychology Quarterly

Other journals that publish articles on emotion:

American Psychologist  
Cognition and Emotion  
Current Directions in Psychological Science  
Motivation and Emotion  
Perspectives on Psychological Science  
Psychological Bulletin  
Psychological Review  
Psychological Science  
Review of General Psychology  
Science