

POL 373H1F (Fall 2016): The Emotions and Political Theory

Lectures: Monday in UC 179, 4 to 6 pm.

Instructor: Rebecca Kingston, Professor of Political Science

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Course Description:

Despite some renderings of the art of proper political thinking as the search for the supremacy of reason over passion, recent scholarship across the humanities and social sciences has revealed the multiple ways in which emotion can be recognised as a key component of morality and good politics. Writers offering revisionist approaches to the history of political thought have come to recognise that many political theorists prior to the twentieth century were more receptive to emotion as a positive political force.

In this context, this course has two objectives. The first objective is to provide a broad overview of some of the key issues concerning the nature of the emotions and their place in political life, as presented in the history of political thought. The first few weeks of the course will allow students to see some of the historical development of competing models of the place of emotion in politics and to give us tools to develop a more sophisticated account of the emotional process and of its place in models of good citizenship.

A second objective is to raise questions concerning the role of specific emotions in contemporary liberal democracy. The latter part of the course is structured around a number of current debates among political and cultural theorists who take the emotions seriously.

Basic outline:

Part I. The Emotions in history, theory and practice (six weeks):

- A. Introduction. What is an emotion and how do we begin to think about the place of emotion in political life? (three weeks)
- B. Emotions, ancient to modern approaches: a brief survey (three weeks)

Part II. Emotions and Politics in Contemporary Theory (seven weeks):

- A. Love and democratic citizenship (two weeks)
- B. Shame, society and the law (two weeks)
- C. Fear, anger and Courage (three weeks)

Assignments (instructions for each assignment noted below):

Reflection paper, 5 pp. due October 17 th	10%
Research essay, c. 10 pp., due November 28 th	35%
Exam (during December exam period)	35%
Participation in class and on Blackboard chat group	20%

Reflection Paper: This paper is intended as a reflective and analytic exercise, rather than a research exercise. This means that you are not required to do extensive research with reliance on secondary sources, although you will need to explore the various media options available to you and choose which you judge best for the purposes of the assignment. If you do choose to integrate references to secondary materials, please use standard bibliographic formatting to document your sources appropriately (Chicago, APA or MLA is fine).

Your paper will be graded according to criteria of organisation (not just introduction, body and conclusion but dealing with similar points/ observations/themes at the same point in the analysis and placing those themes in an order that allows for reasonable flow and development of an overall position in your paper), depth and insightfulness of the analysis (which may mean drawing meaningful comparisons between similar phenomena), and the overall quality of expression (style, spelling, grammar, etc.).

You have two options:

- 1) The first is to choose one speech that is delivered by one of the two main contenders in the current American Presidential election campaign. It would be helpful to find a video of the speech so that you will be able to replay it for purposes of analysis. Analyse the speech according to the following guidelines and questions: 1) to what degree is emotion apparent as a strategy of persuasiveness in the speech (as opposed to or alongside rational argument or appeals to the good character of the speech giver)? Through what particular words or phrases or symbolism does this appeal to emotion reveal itself? At what point in the speech does this appeal to emotion come? Identify the emotions appealed to. 2) how does the speech giver's body language contribute or not to the emotional appeal? 3) judge the effectiveness of the appeal to emotion in terms of the particular emotion sought, the manner and the timing of the appeal to the emotion, and the overall persuasiveness of the speech. 4) from your observations in this particular case try to make more general observations concerning the effectiveness of emotional appeals in campaign politics. Are there some emotions better suited to or more effective in politics? What can this study of emotion teach us about the place of emotions in politics and what their place should be?
- 2) The second is to choose two or three campaign television ads from the election campaign (Presidential and Congressional) in the United States. Analyse and compare these ads according to the following guidelines and questions: 1) What emotions are projected in the ads and what emotional states in the viewer are encouraged by the ads? What are the specific words, images, situations, background, music, etc. that reveal the effort to elicit a particular form of emotional

response on the part of the viewer? 2) how does the appeal to emotion compare across the various party advertisements? Do all ads appeal to the same emotion, or do individual parties distinguish themselves by differing types or forms of emotional appeal? 3) judge the effectiveness of the appeal to emotion in the ads (rather than the ad as a whole). How much does the relative effectiveness of the appeal to emotion play into the overall effectiveness (or not) of the ads? Do some emotions lend themselves to more effective emotional appeal than others? 4) from your broad observations and comparisons comment more generally on the place that emotion should have in politics? Does the effectiveness or lack of effectiveness of these emotional appeals in campaign ads provide any more general insight on the place that emotions should have in politics?

Research essay: Your essay should focus on a particular question related to the theme of the course and draw from scholarly sources in political theory and political science (check with me or with the TA if you are in doubt about what constitutes a scholarly source). In addition, it is strongly recommended that you approach this question through the study of the political theory of one or more thinkers, though you are not limited to thinkers on the course syllabus. It is also strongly recommended that you consult with me when determining your paper topic. Your paper should include a standard scholarly format for your references and bibliography.

Plagiarism is a serious offence and University policy on plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Materials discussing this policy will be made available on the course's Blackboard site and can also be consulted at <http://writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources>. Please keep all rough and draft work and hard copies of your essay until the final grades are posted. Dates due are noted above. A penalty of 2% a day (out of 100%) will be assigned to all late papers. This includes weekends. I can accept electronic submissions of your essays, but please follow up with a printed copy.

Turnitin.com: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. This will be available via the Blackboard site for the course (details to follow). In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Participation: Grades for participation will be determined in three ways, through the handing in of a question based on the reading, through active participation in class discussion and through participation in the chat function set up on Blackboard. The participation grade will reflect the student's quantity and quality of contributions to general class discussion both online and in class. To help facilitate discussion in class, students are asked to prepare a question based on the reading for that week to launch discussion, and that question will also be handed in at the end of class. Please sign up ahead of time for the week that you intend to prepare the question. You can sign up for the week of your choice on Blackboard although each week will be limited to seven students to ensure there will be questions ready to launch discussion throughout the term.

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/> or accessibility.services@utoronto.ca .

Readings:

Weekly readings are noted below for the week they are assigned. They will be made available online either on the Blackboard site or through the library website. More details will be given in class.

Blackboard:

A Blackboard website for this course can be accessed through the university portal at portal.utoronto.ca . You will find there a digital copy of the syllabus, some links to required readings, lecture outlines, chatroom for the course as well as the schedule for signing up for the question assignment noted above. You can also download the Blackboard Mobile Learning App to access all your course information posted to Blackboard through your iphone, ipad and Android devices.

Readings and assignments:

*Please note that this schedule of readings may be subject to some modification over the course of the term. .

Week 1 (September 12th) - Introduction to the course.

Week 2 (September 19th) - I. A. What is an emotion and how do we begin to think about the place of emotion in moral and political life?

- Read:

- 1) Ronald de Sousa, "Emotion," Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Available online at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/emotion> . A link to this entry is available on the Blackboard site for the course.
- 2) John Deigh, "Concepts of Emotions in Modern Philosophy and Psychology," Chapter 1 of The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Emotion. Ed. Peter Goldie (Oxford: OUP, 2010), 17-40.

- Week 3 (September 26th) -I.A. What is an emotion and how do we begin to think about the place of emotion in moral and political life?
- Read:
- 1) Charles Montgomery, Happy City, Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2013, chaps. 5 to 6.
- Week 4 (October 3rd) -I.B. Emotions and the History of Political Thought: Classical Theories of the Emotions- Plato, Aristotle and the Stoics
- Read:
- 1) Aristotle, On Rhetoric. A Theory of Civic Discourse trans. George A. Kennedy. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991, Book 1 chaps. 1 to 8 and Book 2 chaps. 1 to 11.
- Week 5 (October 10th) - no class- Thanksgiving
- Week 6 (October 17th) - I.B, con't. Emotions and the History of Political Thought: the Enlightenment with particular attention to pity and fear
- ****Reflection Paper Due (5pp.). See above for details****
- Read:
- 1) Descartes, The Passions of the Soul. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1989), pp. 33-49.
- 2) Rousseau, Second Discourse
- Week 7 (October 24th) I. B. con't. Emotions and the History of Political Thought: Enlightenment with particular attention to pity and fear
- Read:
- 1) Mandeville, The Fable of the Bees and Other Writings, ed. E. Hundert, (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1997), pp. 19-73.
- 2) Edmund Burke, Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful, Part I and 2. Access through the Blackboard site or through this link: https://www.gutenberg.org/files/15043/15043-h/15043-h.htm#PART_I
- 3) Lauren Hall, "Rights and the Heart: Emotions and Rights Claims in the Political Theory of Edmund Burke", The Review of Politics, October 2011, Volume73(Issue4), pp. 609-631. Access through the U of T portal on the library site or through this link:

http://getit.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/oneclick?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info%3Aofi%2Fenc%3AUTF-8&rft_id=info:sid/summon.serialssolutions.com&rft_val_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:mtx:journal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=Rights+and+the+Heart%3A+Emotions+and+Rights+Claims+in+the+Political+Theory+of+Edmund+B+urke&rft.jtitle=The+Review+of+Politics&rft.au=Hall%2C+Lauren&rft.date=2011-10-01&rft.pub=Cambridge+University+Press&rft.issn=0034-6705&rft.eissn=1748-6858&rft.volume=73&rft.issue=4&rft.spage=609&rft.epage=631&rft.externalDocID=41345995

Week 8 (October 31st)

-II. A. Love and Democratic Citizenship

-Read:

1) Michael Hardt, "For Love or Money," Cultural Anthropology, November 2011, Volume 26 (Issue 4), pp. 676-682. Access through the U of T portal or by clicking on the following link:

http://getit.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/oneclick?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info%3Aofi%2Fenc%3AUTF-8&rft_id=info:sid/summon.serialssolutions.com&rft_val_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:mtx:journal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=For+Love+or+Money&rft.jtitle=Cultural+Anthropology&rft.au=Hardt%2C+Michael&rft.date=2011&rft.issn=0886-7356&rft.eissn=1548-1360&rft.volume=26&rft.issue=4&rft.spage=676&rft.externalDocID=R04704617

2) Martha Nussbaum, Political Emotions. Why Love Matters for Justice (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 2013), chap. 1, pp. 1-24.

3) Rebecca Solnit, "Icebergs and Shadows," In Encyclopedia of Trouble and Spaciousness (San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 2014), pp. 133-141.

Week 9 (November 7th)

-Fall Break- no class

Week 10 (November 14th)

-II. A. con't .Love and Democratic Citizenship: critical perspectives

1) Sigmund Freud, Civilization and its Discontents (London: Penguin, 2002), chap. 3 and 5, 29-44, and 56-67.

2) Lauren Berlant, "Cruel Optimism," Differences. A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies 17.3(2006), pp. 20-36 to be accessed through UTOR library site at <http://differences.dukejournals.org/content/17/3/20.full.pdf>

Week 11 (November 21th)

- II. B. Shame, Society and the Law

-Read:

1) Martha Nussbaum, "Shaming Citizens?" In Hiding from Humanity. Disgust, Shame and the Law (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2004), chap. 5, pp. 222-279.

2) Julien Deonna, Raffaele Rodogno and Fabrice Teroni, In Defense of Shame (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), chaps. 4 and 7.

Week 12 (November 28th)

II. C. Emotions in Contemporary Political Theory: Fear

-*** Final Paper Due- 10 pp- see above for details

-Read:

1) Corey Robin, "Introduction," Fear. The History of a Political Idea (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. 1-25.

Week 13 (December 5th)

II. C. Emotions in Contemporary Political Theory: Anger and Courage

-Listen/Read:

1) Guest Martha Nussbaum on Anger (Parts One and Two) on the Partially Examined Life, a podcast on Soundcloud. Part One released 30 July 2016. Accessible through the following link: <https://soundcloud.com/partially-examined-life> (look for podcasts from the summer of 2016).

2) James Jasper, "Constructing Indignation: Anger Dynamics in Protest Movements," Emotion Review 6.3(2014), pp. 208-213. Available on the UTOR library site or click on the following link: http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/details/17540739/v06i0003/208_ciadipm.xml

-3) Jason Scorza, "The Ambivalence of Political Courage," The Review of Politics 63.4(2001), pp. 637-662. Available on the UTOR library site or click on the following link: <http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/browse/00346705/v63i0004/>

4) Valerie Palmer Mehta, "Theorizing the Role of Courage in Resistance: A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Aung San Suu Kyi's 'Freedom From Fear' Speech," Communication, Culture and Critique, September 2012, Volume 5 (Issue3), pp. 313-332. Access on the U of T portal or by clicking the following link:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/doi/10.1111/j.1753-9137.2012.01137.x/full>

Week 14 (December 7th) - Question and answer/discussion session.

Final Exam in the December exam period.