

POL 373H1F (Fall 2014): The Emotions and Political Theory

Lectures: Tuesdays 10 to 12 in UC 161

Instructor: Rebecca Kingston, Associate Professor of Political Science

Office Hours: Thursdays 3 to 5, Sid Smith 3117

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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 of the course is to explore in greater detail a few particular debates concerning the role of emotions in contemporary liberal democracy. The latter part of the course is structured around a number of current debates among political theorists who take the emotions seriously.

Basic outline:

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

- A. Introduction. What is an emotion and how do we begin to think about the place of emotion in political life? (two weeks)
- B. Emotions and the history of political thought: a brief survey (two weeks)
- C. Emotions and Morality in Contemporary Psychology

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

- A. Emotions and democratic citizenship (two weeks)
- B. Shame and the law (two weeks)
- C. Fear and Courage (two weeks)

D. Politics and Happiness (two weeks)

Assignments (instructions for each assignment noted below):

Reflection paper, 5 pp. due September 30 th	10%
Research essay, c. 10 pp., due December 2 nd	35%
Exam (during December exam period)	35%
Participation in class and on Blackboard chat group	20%

Reflection Paper: This paper is intended mainly as a reflective and analytic exercise, rather than a research exercise. You have two options.

1) The first is to choose a particular emotion that you deem to be relevant to politics, and then choose two or possibly three issues where this emotion is evident (you may need to consult newspapers and trusted media sources for this, or you can also do so through a fictional account but please cite your sources in proper format). Provide your own analysis of the emotion- what are the cognitive and feeling components involved? Do you consider it a primary or secondary emotion (an emotion about emotions), and in what way? Compare and contrast the way in which your chosen emotion manifested itself in the various contexts. How does the comparison shed light on the structure and nature of the emotion- i.e. what can we learn about the emotion itself by examining it in different social and political settings? What can these manifestations of the same emotion in different contexts teach us about the place of this emotion in politics and what its place should be?

2) The second option is to choose one political issue (again using a trusted source with appropriate bibliographic references) and to explore the range of emotions that can be seen as linked to or coming from this issue. Provide a brief analysis of the emotions identified. Is it possible to distinguish between public and private emotions in your case? If so, what exactly determines the distinction? How are the emotions identified linked to notions of what socially, politically or legally might be deemed the appropriate emotions for the situation? What basis do we or should we use to determine which emotions may be appropriate and which are not?

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 (consult The Chicago Manual of Style for questions with regard to this).

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.

Books and Course Packet:

Required text:

Marcus Aurelius. Meditations

This book is for sale at the Bob Miller Bookroom, downstairs at 180 Bloor Street West (across from the ROM). Their telephone number is (416) 922-3557.

There is a packet of course readings. All readings found in the course packet are identified in the syllabus with the letters CP in brackets. The course packets are available from **Print City** also at 180 Bloor Street West (across from the ROM). Their telephone number is 416-920-3040.

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.

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| Week 1 (September 9 th) | - I. Introduction to the course. |
| Week 2 (September 16 th) | - I. What is an emotion and how do we begin to think about the place of emotion in moral and political life?

- <u>Read:</u>

1) Ronald de Sousa, "Emotion," <u>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</u> . 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 <u>The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Emotion</u> . Ed. Peter Goldie (Oxford: OUP, 2010), 17-40 (CP). |
| Week 3 (September 23 rd) | - I. Emotions and the History of Political Thought: Classical Theories of the Emotions- Plato, Aristotle and the Stoics

- <u>Read:</u>

1) Marcus Aurelius. <u>Meditations</u>

2) Plato. <u>Republic</u> , books 8-9. Use your own copy from POL200Y or access the text online at: http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html |
| Week 4 (September 30 th) | - I. Emotions and the History of Political Thought: the Enlightenment

- <u>Read:</u>

1) Descartes, <u>The Passions of the Soul</u> . (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1989), pp. 33-49 (CP). |

2) Mandeville, The Fable of the Bees and Other Writings, ed. E. Hundert, (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1997), pp. 19-73 (CP).

2) Rebecca Kingston, "The Political Relevance of the Emotions from Descartes to Smith," In Bringing the Passions Back In, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010), pp. 108-125 (CP).

Week 5 (October 7th)

-****Reflection Paper Due (5 pp.)- see above for details

I. Contemporary Approaches to the nature of emotions and morality in philosophy

Read:

1) Jesse Prinz, "Fear and Loathing in Micronesia," Beyond Human Nature (London: Allen Lane, 2012), chap. 10, pp. 241-266.

2) Jonathan Haidt, The Righteous Mind. Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion (New York: Vintage Books, 2012), chap. 2, pp. 32-60.

Week 6 (October 14th)

II. Emotions and Democratic Citizenship: The emotional contours/geography of contemporary liberal democracy

Read:

1) Joseph de Rivera et al., "The Emotional Climate of Nations and their Culture of Peace," Journal of Social Issues, vol. 63, no. 2 (2007), pp. 255-271. To be accessed on the U of T portal at http://journals2.scholarsportal.info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/pdf/00224537/v63i0002/255_teonatcop.xml (if you are unable to access it directly through this link, please log into the portal and search for the article on the library website).

2) Frank Fischer, "Passionate Participants: rethinking emotion in public deliberation," In Democracy and Expertise: Reorienting Policy Inquiry (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), chap 10 and on Oxford Scholarship Online at:

<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199282838.001.0001/acprof-9780199282838-chapter-11>

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

Week 7 (October 21st)

II. Emotions and Democratic Citizenship: critical perspectives

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

2) Lauren Berlant, "Cruel Optimism," Differences. A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies 17.5(2006), pp. 20-36 to be accessed through UTOR library site at <http://differences.dukejournals.org/content/17/3/20.full.pdf>

3) Ioannis D. Evrigenis, Fear of Enemies and Collective Action (Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2008), chap. 1, "Negative Association," pp. 1-21 to be accessed through the U of T library website for a link to the e-book offered by Cambridge Books Online <http://dx.doi.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/10.1017/CBO9780511509636> . If this link does not work directly, please access the chapter through the UT library online catalogue.

Week 8 (October 28th)

- II. Emotions in Contemporary Political Theory: Shame 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, p. 222-279 (CP).

Week 9 (November 4th)

II. Emotions in Contemporary Political Theory: Shame and the Law.

-Read:

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

Week 10 (November 11th)

II. Emotions in Contemporary Political Theory: Fear.

- Read:

1) George E. Marcus, "Reason, Passion and Democratic Politics: old conceptions- new understandings- new possibilities," in Passions and Emotions, ed. James E. Fleming. (New York and London: New York University Press, 2013) (CP)

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

Week 11 (November 18th)

-II. Emotions and Politics in Contemporary Theory: Courage

- Bring to class the account of a life story of a well-known (or not so well-known) political actor as a case study in political courage. We will raise these examples of political courage in discussion.

-Read:

-1) Jason Scorza, "The Ambivalence of Political Courage," The Review of Politics 63.4(2001), pp. 637-662 available on the UTOR library site at: <http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/pdfplus/1408854.pdf?acceptTC=true>

Week 12 (November 25th)

- II. Emotions and Politics in Contemporary Theory: Happiness in the city, state and global community

-Read:

1) Barbara Fredrikson, "The Broaden and Build Theory of Positive Emotions," Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London in Biological Sciences 359.1449 (September 2004), 1367-78 to be accessed through UTOR articles at <http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/content/359/1449/1367> (or search the library catalogue with the title of the article).

2) Jules Evans, "Solving Happiness," in The New Inquiry, June 6, 2012

Week 13 (December 2nd)

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

- II. Emotions and Politics in Contemporary Theory: Happiness in the city, state and global community

- Read:

-1) Charles Montgomery, Happy City, Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2013, chaps. 5 to 7, (CP).

-2) J. Helliwel, R. Layard, and J. Sachs, eds. World Happiness Report, New York: Earth Institute, Columbia University, 2012. chaps. 1, 4 and 5. Access at <http://www.earth.columbia.edu/sitefiles/file/Sachs%20Writing/2012/World%20Happiness%20Report.pdf>