

## POL 373H1F (Fall 2015): The Emotions and Political Theory

Lectures: Tuesday 10 to 12 in UC 179

Instructor: Rebecca Kingston, Associate Professor of Political Science

Office Hours: Thursday 3 to 5 in 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 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 (seven 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 (four weeks)

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

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

Assignments (instructions for each assignment noted below):

Reflection paper, 5 pp. due October 13 <sup>th</sup>	10%
Research essay, c. 10 pp., due December 1 <sup>st</sup>	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 any one of the current political party leaders in the ongoing Canadian federal 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 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 three or four campaign television ads from three or four of the main contenders in the current Canadian federal election (Conservative, NDP, Liberal and Green Party). Analyse and compare these ads according to the following guidelines and questions: 1) What emotions are projected in the ad and what emotional states in the viewer are encouraged by the ad? 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 ad (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 ad? 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](mailto: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](http://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 15<sup>th</sup>) - Introduction to the course.

Week 2 (September 22<sup>nd</sup>) - 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 29<sup>th</sup>)

-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 7.

-2) Frank Fischer, "Policy deliberation: confronting subjectivity and emotional expression," Critical Policy Studies, April 2010, Volume 3(Issue3-4), pp. 407-420. This can be accessed through the UTOR library site or by clicking 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:kev:mtx:journal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=Policy+deliberation%3A+confronting+subjectivity+and+emotional+expression&rft.jtitle=Critical+Policy+Studies&rft.au=Fischer%2C+Frank&rft.date=2010-04-28&rft.pub=Taylor+%26+Francis&rft.issn=1946-0171&rft.eissn=1946-018X&rft.volume=3&rft.issue=3&rft.spage=407&rft\\_id=info:doi/10.1080/2F19460171003619832&rft.externalDocID=462492](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:kev:mtx:journal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=Policy+deliberation%3A+confronting+subjectivity+and+emotional+expression&rft.jtitle=Critical+Policy+Studies&rft.au=Fischer%2C+Frank&rft.date=2010-04-28&rft.pub=Taylor+%26+Francis&rft.issn=1946-0171&rft.eissn=1946-018X&rft.volume=3&rft.issue=3&rft.spage=407&rft_id=info:doi/10.1080/2F19460171003619832&rft.externalDocID=462492)

Week 4 (October 6<sup>th</sup>)

-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 13<sup>th</sup>)

- I.B, con't. Emotions and the History of Political Thought: the Enlightenment

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

-Read:

1) Descartes, The Passions of the Soul. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1989), pp. 33-49.

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

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 by clicking 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:kev:mtx:journal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=Rights+and+the+Heart%3A+Emotions+and+Rights+Claims+in+the+Political+Theory+of+Edmund+Burke&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](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:kev:mtx:journal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=Rights+and+the+Heart%3A+Emotions+and+Rights+Claims+in+the+Political+Theory+of+Edmund+Burke&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 6 (October 20<sup>th</sup>)

I. B. con't. Modern Approaches to emotions and morality: the question of universalism and moral emotions and politics

Read:

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

2) Peter Goldie, "Culture, evolution and the emotions," The Emotions (Oxford: OUP, 2000), chap. 4, pp. 84-121.

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

4) Rebecca Kingston, "Epilogue. Integrating Multiple Perspectives in the Study of the Emotions," In Emotions in Contexts, ed. Kingston et al, (Toronto: U of T Press, forthcoming).

Week 7 (October 27<sup>th</sup>)

-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](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), 133-141.

Week 8 (November 3<sup>rd</sup>)

-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 17.5(2006), pp. 20-36 to be accessed through UTOR library site at <http://differences.dukejournals.org/content/17/3/20.full.pdf>

Week 9 (November 10<sup>th</sup>)

- 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, p. 222-279.

Week 10 (November 17<sup>th</sup>)

II. B. con't. Shame, Society 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.

- Week 11 (November 24<sup>th</sup>) II. B. con't. Shame, Society and the Law.
- 1) Jennifer Jacquet, Is Shame Necessary? (New York: Pantheon Books, 2015), chaps. 3, 5 and 7.
- Week 12 (December 1<sup>st</sup>) 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 8<sup>th</sup>) II. C. Emotions in Contemporary Political Theory: Courage
- 1) 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://www.jstor.org/myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/pdfplus/1408854.pdf?acceptTC=true>
- 2) 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://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:kev:mtx:journal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=Theorizing+the+Role+of+Courage+in+Resistance%3A+A+Feminist+Rhetorical+Analysis+of+Aung+San+Suu+Kyi%27s+%27Freedom+from+Fear%27+Speech&rft.jtitle=Communication%2C+Culture+%26+Critique&rft.au=Palmer-Mehta%2C+Valerie&rft.date=2012&rft.issn=1753-9137&rft.eissn=1753-9137&rft.volume=5&rft.issue=3&rft.spage=313&rft.externalDocID=R04728250](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:kev:mtx:journal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=Theorizing+the+Role+of+Courage+in+Resistance%3A+A+Feminist+Rhetorical+Analysis+of+Aung+San+Suu+Kyi%27s+%27Freedom+from+Fear%27+Speech&rft.jtitle=Communication%2C+Culture+%26+Critique&rft.au=Palmer-Mehta%2C+Valerie&rft.date=2012&rft.issn=1753-9137&rft.eissn=1753-9137&rft.volume=5&rft.issue=3&rft.spage=313&rft.externalDocID=R04728250)