

Psych 43
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Emotion

Winter Term, 2014
T,TH 2 pm

Office Hours: by appointment

The purpose of this class will be to explore attempts to study our human emotions. What constitutes an emotion – How do we define one? How do we measure one? Is emotion the same for each of us? Is an aberration in our emotional life the basis for psychopathological disorders? We will examine these questions by first learning about how the brain detects, identifies, interacts with and/or mediates emotion. This will give us a foundation from which to consider these more lofty questions.

Texts:

Required: The Emotional Brain, by Joseph LeDoux, 1996, Simon & Schuster.
Optional: The Human Amygdala, Edited by PJ Whalen and EA Phelps, 2009 Guilford.

Schedule

Jan 7 T	Class Intro
Jan 9 TH	Introduction to Emotion Research (Whalen & Phelps Ch 13)
Jan 14 T	Using Facial Expressions to Study Emotion (W & P Ch 12)
Jan 16 TH	Expressing Emotion (LeDoux Chap 3)
Jan 21 T	Limbic System (LeDoux Chap 4)
Jan 23 TH	Limbic System (LeDoux Chap 4)
Jan 28 T	Studying Fear (LeDoux Chap 6; W & P Ch. 6)
Jan 30 TH	Studying Fear
Feb 4 T	Studying Fear
*Feb 5 W	X-hour (4:15 pm); Exam Review
Feb 6 TH	MIDTERM EXAM
Feb 11 T	Emotional Memory (LeDoux Chap 7; W & P Chap 8)
Feb 13 TH	Emotional Memory
Feb 18 T	Stress & Health (LeDoux Chap 8)
Feb 20 TH	Stress & Health
Feb 25 T	Disorders of Emotion (W & P Ch 14)
	Guest speaker Lisa Shin, Tufts University
Feb 27 TH	Disorders of Emotion (W & P Ch 16)
Mar 4 T	Emotional Development (W & P Ch 5)
	Guest speaker, Leah Somerville, Harvard University
Mar 6 TH	TBA
Mar 12 W	Final Exam (3 pm)

* Wednesday x-hour classes

Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak to me and give me a copy of your accommodations form by the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Director of Student Disabilities may be consulted if questions arise.

Academic Honor

This course adheres to the guidelines of Academic Honor published on pages 42-44 in the Dartmouth College Bulletin: Organization, Regulations and Courses, 2005-2006.

Exams

There will be two exams (mid-term; final).

Grading

Mid-term Exam	50%
Final Exam	50%
Participation	Intrinsically Motivated