IP211-15 Emotion: Thinking with Feeling

26/27

Department
Liberal Arts
Level
Undergraduate Level 2
Module leader
Kim Lockwood Clough
Credit value
15
Module duration
10 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

"Emotions," Sara Ahmed (2014) writes, "have been a ‘sticking point’ for philosophers, cultural theorists, psychologists, sociologists, as well as scholars from a range of other disciplines. This is not surprising: what is relegated to the margins is often, as we know from deconstruction, right at the centre of thought itself.”

As Ahmed describes, people are emotional beings, but we often find it difficult to think and talk about feelings. On this module, we bring both the concept of emotion itself and ideas about specific emotions into the spotlight, as we explore how we can think about – and think with – feeling.

Drawing on interdisciplinary approaches, on this module we examine and analyse emotions as personal, collective, cultural, and social experiences. We explore what emotions mean to individuals, communities, and societies; how emotions feel, and how we feel about emotions; how emotions can be expressed and 'performed'; and how emotions circulate in cultural productions and social spaces.

Module web page

Module aims

On this module, we aim to think closely and carefully about feeling, through student-led, problem-based learning.

Drawing on approaches linked to key disciplinary areas – such as art, classics, cultural studies, history, literature, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and theology – as well as works by interdisciplinary thinkers, the module is designed to help us develop insightful and relevant critical frameworks for exploring emotion.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

As this module uses problem-based and student-led learning, topics studied may change from year to year and based
on students' interests. The syllabus below is purely indicative, meaning actual content and topics may differ:

- Histories of Emotion - how have people thought and understood feelings?
- Connection and Community - how do emotions bring people together?
- Shame - how does shame, through its connections to privacy and discipline, shape our behaviours?
- Love - how has love been understood and expressed across different times and cultures?
- Grief - how do we understand grief as an individual and collective emotional experience?
- Anger - is anger always a negative, destructive emotion, or can it be used positively and creatively?
- Depression/Anxiety - do we need to move beyond ideas of mental health and think of emotions as a broader
  cultural experience?
- Happiness/Joy - what is the role of happiness in contemporary society?

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of different approaches to, and perspectives on, emotion
- Critically evaluate understandings of emotion and emotions
- Analyse cultural expressions of emotion
- Use critical and theoretical perspectives to support their ideas and understandings of emotion
- Explain and justify their individualise interdisciplinary perspectives on emotion
- Creatively explore and express ideas about emotion

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Specific reading list for the module

Research element

The seminars on this module are centred on student-led, problem-based learning, with students undertaking independent research across the module to support our collaborative explorations of emotions. The assessments on this module are also centred on independent research and provide space for students to explore topics related to emotion which also align with their own research interests.

Interdisciplinary

This module mobilises critical and theoretical perspectives drawn from multiple disciplinary areas, such as art, classics, culture studies, history, literature, philosophy, politics, psychology, sociology, and theology, as well as interdisciplinary perspectives. Throughout the module, we reflect on connections and contradictions between cross- and interdisciplinary thought, in order to understand the complexities of emotion as both an area of study and a lived, personal and social, experience.

International

The central focus of the module falls on Western/European/Global North understandings of emotion, as an immediate sociocultural context; to facilitate exploration of the sociocultural dimensions of emotion, however, throughout the module these perspectives are drawn into dialogue with ideas and lived experiences of emotion across a diversity of time periods and global cultures.

Subject specific skills

- how emotions have been studied, and how to study emotions
- theorisations of emotions across times and cultures
- individual and collective expressions and experiences of emotion
- circulation of feelings in art, film, literature, media, and music
- how ideas about emotions shape and (de)construct identities

Transferable skills

- critical thinking
- problem solving
- close analysis
- reflection
- collaborative working
- independent working
- time management

- communication of ideas
- synthesis of ideas
- evaluation and reflection
- independent research
- constructing arguments

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
Private study	30 hours (20%)
Assessment	100 hours (67%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Weekly preparation/research in advance of seminars.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Express Yourself!	40%	40 hours	Yes (extension)

A creative exploration of an emotion informed by ideas and concepts explored on the module.

Possible formats for creative work may include, but are not limited to: artwork (painting, drawing, sculpture); comic strip; psychogeographical map; exhibition plan/guide; short film; sound recording; performance; creative writing.

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Big Feelings	40%	40 hours	Yes (extension)

A research essay detailing the ideas and understandings of emotion that have informed the Express Yourself! creative piece.

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Emotion Portfolio	20%	20 hours	Yes (extension)

A portfolio of tasks responding to content and ideas covered on the module.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Formative feedback will be provided through in-class peer workshops and office hours; summative feedback will be provided via Tabula.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UVCA-LA99 Undergraduate Liberal Arts
  - Year 2 of LA92 Liberal Arts with Classics
  - Year 2 of LA73 Liberal Arts with Design Studies
  - Year 2 of LA83 Liberal Arts with Economics
  - Year 2 of LA82 Liberal Arts with Education
  - Year 2 of LA95 Liberal Arts with English
  - Year 2 of LA81 Liberal Arts with Film and Television Studies
  - Year 2 of LA93 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of LA97 Liberal Arts with History

    - Year 2 of LA71 Liberal Arts with Law
    - Year 2 of LA91 Liberal Arts with Life Sciences
    - Year 2 of LA75 Liberal Arts with Modern Languages and Cultures
    - Year 2 of LA96 Liberal Arts with Philosophy
    - Year 2 of LA94 Liberal Arts with Theatre and Performance Studies

This module is Option list G for:

- UVCA-LA99 Undergraduate Liberal Arts
    - Year 2 of LA95 Liberal Arts with English
    - Year 2 of LA97 Liberal Arts with History
    - Year 2 of LA96 Liberal Arts with Philosophy