

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Division of Social Science

SOSC6880 Seminar on Emotion | Spring 2021

Lecture: Thursday 9:00AM – 11:50AM
Canvas: <https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/37178>
Instructor: Michelle.Yik@ust.hk
Office: Room 2386, Academic Building
Consultation: By appointment through email

When contacting us, ALWAYS prefix the subject line of your message with the course code (e.g., "sosc6880 | term paper"). Use your university email account only.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers major perspectives on emotion, with an emphasis on a psychological rather than a biological or a sociological level of analysis. It provides an in-depth examination of emotion theories and research to students with different research foci.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine an important topic in-depth with readings from primary sources
- To examine how various perspectives of psychology (social, cognitive, cultural) can be brought to bear on a single topic
- To work in a relatively small class with an opportunity for discussion and individual exploration

CLASS STRUCTURE

- Each class will be divided into three sessions:
 - **Session 1** (45 mins): Student presentation on a topic covering both theoretical and empirical perspectives
 - **Session 2**: Class discussion (e.g., relating the topic to your own research)
 - **Session 3**: Instructor's preview of the following topic
- For each topic, the instructor will provide a few guiding questions and a collection of papers on CANVAS **two weeks in advance**.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Weekly Thought Papers	30%
Class Participation	20%
Topic Presentations	20%
Term Paper	30%

Thought Papers (30%)

- Each week, the assignment is a thought paper developing some aspect of the material to be read and presented during the class.
 - **Deadline:** 12 noon the day before an upcoming class
 - **Word Limit:** 400 - 500 words
 - **File Name:** Label your MS WORD document using your family name and SID (e.g., Chan_12345678.docx).
 - **Submission:** Submit your thought papers via CANVAS.
- By “thought” paper, I do not mean any old thought that happens to pop into your head. Nor do I mean questions only. Rather I mean **possible answers to a question**.
- Hints on writing a Thought Paper:
 1. Don’t be fooled into thinking that 500 words are a severe limitation. With good writing, a huge amount can be said in 500 words.
 2. In the past, some students raised questions. Doing so is fine – as a topic sentence. You need to then go on to develop the question and its possible answers.
 3. The comment “I agree with X when X claims ...” is another topic sentence. It too needs to be developed. You may say why you agree, the alternative(s) you therefore disagree with, or what the implications of the claim.

Class Participation (20%)

- The prerequisite for class participation is attendance, although I do not take attendance. Please come to class ON TIME.
- Your class participation score will be determined by the quality and quantity of issues raised by you.

Topic Presentations (20%)

Each student will be involved in at least 2 topic presentations to the class. Each presentation (Session 1) will be no longer than 45 minutes. Please submit the ppt file via CANVAS before **12 noon the day before your presentation**.

- For this course, you will write one essay on a theoretical issue related to any topic of this seminar course. You might analyze a theoretical problem, propose a theoretical position or a mini-theory, or outline a way to resolve a theoretical debate. An alternative is a literature review, but that implies extensive review. If you are uncertain about what a theoretical – as opposed to empirical or methodological – paper is, you might look at articles in *Emotion Review*.
- This essay is **a major focus** of your work in this course. It is a primary outlet for expressing your creativity and critical thought. Start early and work hard on this paper.
- Two specific tasks:
 - a. a **presentation** (10%)
 - Time limit: 30 minutes
 - Submit the ppt file via CANVAS before **12 noon the day before your presentation**
 - b. a **report** (20%)
 - Page Limit: 10 – 15 pages (double-spaced, one-inch margins, Calibri 11)
 - Submit your report in MS WORD format via CANVAS before **12 noon two weeks after your Presentation**
- **Mandatory Consultations:** Prior to preparing your paper, you are to meet with the instructor during the Term Paper Consultations day.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic
1	4 Feb	0. Introduction & Overview
2	11 Feb	No class
3	18 Feb	1. Four Current Perspectives
4	25 Feb	2. Basic Emotions
5	4 Mar	3. Charles Darwin & facial expression
6	11 Mar	4. William James & his legacy: Psychophysiology
7	18 Mar	5. Appraisal (Cognitive) Theories
8	25 Mar	Term Paper Consultations
9	1 Apr	Mid-term Break
9	8 Apr	6. Language & Concepts
10	15 Apr	7. Culture
11	22 Apr	8. Mixed Emotions
12	29 Apr	Presentation Consultations
13	6 May	Term Paper Presentations