

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Division of Social Science

Lectures will not
be recorded.

SOSC6880 Seminar on Emotion | Fall 2022

Lecture: Thursday 10:30AM – 1:20PM
Venue: ~~Room 5510, Lifts 25-26~~
Room 2303, Lifts 17-18
Website: <https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/45697>
Instructor: [Professor Michelle YIK](#)
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Email: Michelle.Yik@ust.hk
Phone: 2358-7815
Consultation: By appointment through email

- Check CANVAS announcements regularly.
- Do not leave messages in the CANVAS inbox.

When contacting us by email, ALWAYS prefix the subject line of your message with the course code (e.g., [sosc6880] presentation). 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:
 - **Part 1:** Student presentation on a topic covering both theoretical and empirical perspectives
 - **Part 2:** Class discussion (e.g., relating the topic to your own research)
 - **Part 3:** Instructor's preview of the following topic
- For each topic, the instructor will provide a few guiding questions and a collection of readings on CANVAS.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Thought Papers	30%
Topic Presentations	20%
Class Participation	10%
Term Paper	40%

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. The presenter does not need to submit his/her thought paper on the day of presentation.
 - Deadline: **12 noon the day before an upcoming class**
 - Word Limit: 400 - 500 words (excluding the references section)
 - 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.
 - Only **the best 3** will be counted towards the grade.
- 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. **Give a title** to each thought paper; focus on no more than 2 points.
 3. 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.**
 4. 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.

Topic Presentations (20%)

- Each student will be involved in 1 to 2 topic presentations to the class. Each presentation (Part 1) will be no longer than 45 minutes.
- Model along the Ted-talk style; include a slide on “Food for Thought”.
- Please submit the ppt file via CANVAS before **12 noon the day before your presentation**.

Class Participation (10%)

- 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.

Term Paper (40%)

- For this course, you will write one essay on a theoretical issue related to any topic of this seminar course.
- 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.
- For details, please refer to the Term Paper guidelines.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic
1	01 Sep	00. Introduction
1	08 Sep	[No class]
2	15 Sep	01. Four Current Perspectives
3	22 Sep	02. Basic Emotions
4	29 Sep	03. Charles Darwin & facial expressions
5	06 Oct	04. William James & his legacy: Psychophysiology
6	13 Oct	05. Appraisal (Cognitive) Theories
7	20 Oct	06. Language & Concepts
8	27 Oct	07. Culture
9	03 Nov	Term Paper Consultations
10	10 Nov	[No class]
	11 Nov	Draft ppt due at 12 noon
11	17 Nov	Presentation Consultations
	18 Nov	Revised ppt due at 12 noon
12	24 Nov	Term Paper Presentations
13	01 Dec	Term paper due at 12 noon