Sociology of Emotions
Course No. xxxxxxx Wednesdays 9:00-11:00
Course Convenor: Dr. Mary Holmes
Starting 1 August, current email mary.holmes@flinders.edu.au

Owning programme: MA Global Social Change
Semester 1 course

Level-11 course This is a postgraduate version of an existing undergraduate Honours option in Sociology. This course is distinguished from the UG version in three respects. First, the learning outcomes and extra readings demand greater sophistication and analytical skills; second, there are additional bi-weekly PG seminars; and third, the assessment is conceived and evaluated at a level appropriate to a PG-level course.

Course Description
Feelings are things we usually think of as ‘natural’, but sociologists are interested in to what extent emotions are socially constructed and/or socially constituting. We examine why sociologists have largely neglected emotions and what a sociological approach can bring to our understanding of them. This will enable us to explore how the sociology of emotions can challenge some of sociology’s key premises and ways of thinking and to critically analyse debates about the changing role of emotions in social life. The topic examines how modernity has made people feel about each other and their world and how those feelings have in turn shaped that world.

Aims and Objectives
Students who have taken the course will have an understanding of differing theoretical explanations of emotions, and be able to critically compare the importance and operation of emotions in different social settings. They should be able to analyse how are subject to social processes, and identify and describe major debates within the study of emotions.

Learning Outcomes
Graduates will be able to demonstrate:

1. A critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles in the field of the sociology of emotions
2. An ability to apply their knowledge and skills to understanding practical examples of how emotions are expressed in different social and cultural contexts
3. That they can critically review and evaluate different sociological approaches to emotions, and offer some original insight into the debates
4. An ability to clearly communicate, orally and in written form, their ideas relating to the sociology of emotions
5. Team-work skills in organizing and leading tutorial discussion with a group of peers

Course Delivery
The course involves one two-hour session every week. The first hour may be a lecture, whereas the second hour may be discussion or presentations and group work, or there may be two hours of lecture/discussion format. Students are expected to do the assigned readings in advance and arrive fully prepared to participate. Students are required to do key readings, and are strongly encouraged to read beyond these. In addition, PG seminars will be delivered every other week beginning Week 2. Students should note lecture attendance, participation in presentations and group
Assessment
All students will be assessed through the writing of an essay (word-limit 4000 words), to be agreed with the Convenor. The PG sessions will be student-led (with the convenor present) and this will factor in the final course assessment.

Syllabus

Week
1. How do you feel? Defining emotions
2. Feeling modernity. Marx, Weber and Durkheim on emotions
3. How to blow your nose: Civilising emotions?
4. Why do people cry at weddings?
5. Are women more emotional? Engendering emotions
6. Feeling tarty: Distaste and the reproduction of class
7. Wretchedness, anger and happiness: Resisting racism
8. Passionate politics: Social movements, mainstream politics and emotions
9. (Dis)abling emotions: Feeling different
11. Revision

Indicative Readings

General background reading is below and there will be essential and further reading for each week, an indicative list follows. All essential reading is available in electronic form via the library.

Some general reading


**Week 1: How do you feel? Defining emotions**

**Essential reading:**


**Further reading:**


**Week 2: Feeling modernity. Marx, Weber and Durkheim on emotions**

**Essential reading:**


http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/condition-working-class/

**Further reading:**
Week 3: How to blow your nose: Civilising emotions?

Essential reading:


Further reading:


Week 4: Why do people cry at weddings?

Essential reading:


Further reading:


**Week 5: Are women more emotional? Engendering emotions**

Essential reading:


Further reading:


**Week 6: Feeling tarty: Distaste and the reproduction of class**

Essential reading:


Further reading:


**Week 7: Wretchedness, anger and happiness: Resisting racism**

Essential reading:


Further reading:


**Week 8: Passionate politics: Social movements, mainstream politics and emotions**

Essential reading:


Further reading:


Week 9: (Dis)abling emotions: Feeling different

Essential reading:

Further reading:

Week 10: Global emotions: 'Melancholic migrants', disappointed dreams & excitement

Essential reading:

Further reading: