**PHIL 98: Emotion**

**Syllabus: Fall 2015**

**Instructor:** Olivia Bailey

**Email:** obailey@fas.harvard.edu

**Time/Location:** Tuesdays, 4-6, Sever 212

**Office Hours:** Emerson 306, Monday 2-4

**Topic:** More now than ever, philosophers working in a wide variety of areas are interested in emotion. Discussion of emotion figures prominently in moral psychology, action theory, aesthetics, and even in some strains of philosophy of mind and epistemology. But what exactly are emotions? What exactly would we be missing out on if we did not experience them? In this tutorial, we will consider a variety of (mostly) contemporary philosophical responses to these questions. We will begin by examining the most prominent theories about the composition of emotions: are they feelings? Judgments? Perceptions? Then, we will move on to questions about the significance of emotions for human life, with a particular focus on their relation to rationality. We will ask: is there such a thing as emotional rationality? If so, what might it consist in? How do emotions contribute to and/or interfere with our epistemic capacities? We will finish by addressing some special topics: empathy, emotion and fiction, and the moral significance of our emotional lives.

**Assignments:** The assignments for this course are designed with three principle objectives in mind. First, they will give you the chance to clarify your understanding of others philosophers’ work on emotion, and to develop your own ideas about emotions’ nature and significance. Second, they will provide the opportunity to work on key skills for philosophical writing. And third, they will help you to hone your oral presentation abilities. Your written assignments will include **3 4-page papers**, two of which will involve **re-writes**, and **1 longer term paper of 10–12 pages**. Each student will also be responsible for **two presentations.** You will present and lead discussion for one of the assigned readings, and you will also give a brief presentation of your term paper’s (anticipated) line of argument. It goes without saying that reading the texts and attending section is mandatory.

**Grading:** Each of the 4 page papers is worth 15% of your grade in total. The first paper will involve a *mandatory* re-write. The first draft will be worth 5% of your final grade, and the final draft will be worth 10%. For the other two 4-page papers, you may choose to rewrite *one*, *both,* or *neither.* For these papers, if you choose to re-write, the first draft will also be worth 5% of your grade, the second draft 10%. The term paper is worth 30% of your grade. That means a full 25% of your grade is participation! Participation includes: the quality of your two presentations, involvement in discussion and completion of mini-assignments (principally, sending questions to the discussion leader the day before our meeting), and/or participation in office hours.

The late policy is as follows: you have **5** free late days. You can use a late day, or multiple late days, *whenever you like*. You do not need to provide a reason, but you mustlet me know that this is what you intend to do before the due date. Once you’ve used up your 5 days, though, alllateness not excused by a dean’s or doctor’s note will be penalized (1/3 of letter grade per day), no exceptions. In turning in your assignments, it is your responsibility to ensure that you send me the correct, uncorrupted files. Your assignments are to be emailed to me by 5pm on the due date. They should be either in docx or pdf format, 12pt font, double-spaced.

**Collaboration and Academic Integrity:**

Collaboration is an essential part of philosophy. I encourage you to discuss your ideas and your papers with your classmates, your roommates, your professors, your friends, your enemies… That said, it is important that you cite all your sources responsibly, and that the work in your papers be your own. This course has a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism. If you have questions about these matters, please do ask.

**What you can expect from me:** I will be available at least 2 hours per week for office hours, and I will return all assignments (with the possible exception of the term paper) within five days. I will not be able to read whole drafts in advance of your turning them in, but I’m very happy to read outlines and discuss ideas with you.

**Schedule**

**9/8/15: First Meeting**

J. Shaffer, “An assessment of emotion,” *American Philosophical Quarterly* 20 (1983) 161-173.

**9/15/15: Introducing cognitivism**

R. Solomon, “Emotions and choice,” *The Review of Metaphysics* 27 (1973): 20-41

M. Nussbaum, “Emotions as Judgments of Value and Importance” in *Thinking about Feeling: Contemporary Philosophers on the Emotions.* Ed. R. Solomon(OUP: 2004).

**9/22/15: A place for affect?**

M. Stocker, “The Irreducibility of Affect,” Ch. 1 of *Valuing Emotions* (CUP: 2006)

**9/25/15: *1st draft of Paper #1 due at 5pm***

**9/29/15: Recalcitrant emotion**

P. Greenspan, “Subjective Guilt and Responsibility,” *Mind* 101 (1992).

J. D’arms and D. Jacobson, “The Significance of recalcitrant emotion or: anti-quasijudgmentalism” [*Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement*](http://philpapers.org/asearch.pl?pub=991) 52 (2003) 127-145.

**10/6/15: A new non-cognitivism**

J. Prinz, “Embodied Appraisals” in *Thinking about Feeling: Contemporary Philosophers on the Emotions.* Ed. R. Solomon(OUP: 2004).

**10/7/15: *2nd draft of Paper #1 due at 5pm***

**10/13/15: Narrativity (NB: presentations begin)**

P. Goldie “Grief: A Narrative Account,” *Ratio* 24 (2011)119-137.

A. Rorty. “Enough already with theories of emotion,” in in *Thinking about Feeling: Contemporary Philosophers on the Emotions.* Ed. R. Solomon(OUP: 2004).

**10/16/15: *1st draft of Paper #2 due at 5pm***

**10/20/15: Emotion and Rationality I**

P. Greenspan, “Emotional Strategies and Rationality,” *Ethics* 110 (2000) 469-487.

**10/27/15: Emotion and Rationality II**

K. Jones, “Emotional Rationality as Practical Rationality” in *Setting the Moral Compass* (OUP, 2004)

A. Ze’ev, “The Logic of Emotions” *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement* 52 (2003) 147-162

**11/2/15: *2nd draft of Paper #2 due at 5pm (optional)***

**11/3/15: Emotions and Rationality III**

B. Helm, “Emotional Reason: How to Deliberate about Value,” *American Philosophical Quarterly* 37 (2000) 1-22.

**11/10/15: Emotions and Morality I**

B Williams, “Morality and the Emotions” in *Problems of the Self* (CUP, 1973).

**11/12/15: 1st draft of paper #3 due at 5pm**

**11/17/15: Emotion and Morality II**

L. Blum “Will, Emotion, Self,” in *Friendship, Altruism, and Morality* (Routledge, 1980)

D. Pugmire, “Sentiment and Sentimentality,” in *Sound Sentiments: Integrity in the Emotions* (OUP, 2005)

**11/24/15: Emotion and Fiction**

K. Walton, “Fearing Fictions,” *The Journal of Philosophy* 75 (1978) 5-27.

R. Moran, “The Expression of Feeling in Imagination,” *The Philosophical Review* 163 (1994) 75-106.

**11/23/15: *2nd draft of Paper #3 due at 5pm (optional)***

**12/1/15: Empathy**

J. Prinz, “Against Empathy,” *Southern Journal of Philosophy, Spindel Supplement* 49 (2011) 214-234.

J. Deigh, “Empathy and Universalizability,” *Ethics* 105 (1995) 743-763.

**12/10/15: *Term Paper due at 5pm***