

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-2016

Philosophy 2410F
Philosophy of Emotion

Fall Term 2015
Tuesday 9:30am-10:30am
Thursday 9:30am-11:30am
TC 343

Instructor: Matthew Ivanowich
Office: 4131 Stevenson Hall
Office Hours: Tu 11:00-12:00 / Th 12:00-1:00
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DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will investigate emotions from a philosophical perspective. We will examine various philosophical accounts of the nature of emotion, and explore that role that emotions play both psychologically and socially. We will address questions such as: What are emotions? What is the relationship between emotion and reason/rationality? What role do emotions play in decision-making? What is the biological basis of emotion? How does emotion relate to and affect other types of mental states such as thoughts, beliefs, desires, perception, and sensation? How do emotions relate to ethics? Are we morally responsible for our emotions? What is the value of emotion?

OBJECTIVES

By examining the issues mentioned above, this course will enable students to:

- Understand the main philosophical arguments and positions in the philosophy of emotion.
- Identify specific philosophical problems in the study of emotion.
- Think critically and analytically about issues surrounding emotion, and how emotion relates to areas such as psychology and neuroscience, reasoning and rationality, morality and ethics, and culture and society.
- Develop and improve upon general skills useful for critically engaging with philosophical ideas, including: analyzing and critically evaluating arguments, skills involved in effective oral and written communication, and fruitful engagement with peers.

TEXTS

Readings will be made available on OWL.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation	10%
Short Assignments	25%
Essay	35%
Final Exam	30%

Submission Guidelines

All written work must be submitted to turnitin.com

The penalty for late papers is 5% per day (including weekends)

No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes (Dec.7)

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The Department of Philosophy Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

MENTAL HEALTH

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to **Mental Health@Western** <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.