UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Psychological Science

Affective Science Seminar
Spring 2021: One three-hour class per week

Instructor: Josiah Leong
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What are emotions and how do researchers study them? This course will explore theory and practice in the science of emotions. Early researchers could describe human experiences such as happiness, love, grief, and anger, but were limited by language and data. Recent research on clinical disorders at the extremes of some of the emotions has helped to frame potential axes for studying emotions. This course traces linguistic theories of emotions, to behavioral and physiological studies of emotions, to new synergies betweeen human and animal neuroscience.

Readings
Students are required to complete all of the readings before class each week. At the end of each week, the instructor will provide notes that summarize the readings. The Nature of Emotions book is the only required text to rent or purchase. The instructor will provide additional readings.

Term paper
The course requires a term paper. Students will choose a topic in affective science, conduct a literature review (15 papers), summarize the literature, and propose an experiment to test a specific question in the literature. Students should format the paper like a journal article, with an introduction, research methods, predicted results, and discussion. Students will briefly present their paper in class.

Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Introduction and history	Wundt, Ekman, Davidson
2	Anatomy and chemistry	Damasio, Ledoux, Panksepp
3	Measurement and experimental design	Meehl, Levenson
4	Positive arousal (excitement / lust)	Knutson, Ferenczi
5	Negative arousal (fear / anxiety)	Mobbs, Tye
6	Control (emotion regulation / reappraisal)	Gross, Ochsner, Barrett
7	Anger / aggression / playfulness	Chester
8	Interpersonal (bonds / morals / culture)	McDougall, Zaki
9	Scientific writing	Zinsser
10	Scientific presentation	Tufte
11	Emotion versus cognition	Lazarus, Zajonc
12	Personality	Gray, Eysenck, Funder
13	Disorders	Shackman, Gotlib
14	Special topics: Affective computing	Picard
15	Student presentations	Wilson