Affective Science  
Fall, 2014 (Psyc 621-600)

Meetings: Tuesdays 1:00-4:00, Psychology Building 335
Instructor: Heather C. Lench
Office: Psychology 233
Phone: 845-0377
email: hlench@tamu.edu (usually the best way to reach me)
Office Hr.: Thursday 10-11, or by appointment

Contacting Me: You can call or email with questions. Allow 72 hours for a response. I encourage you to contact me with any questions or comments, as well as to discuss your presentation and final paper.

Goals of the Course: This course will introduce you to theories and approaches in affective science. We will discuss a broad range of topics related to emotion and affect. For most topics we will cover debates in the field, historical perspectives, and recent developments.

Reading: Readings will be drawn from scholarly journals and books. The readings are required and you will need to have a physical copy (either in print or electronically) for class meetings.

Participation (40 points): Students must participate in class discussions. Participation can include any comments that reasonably inform, progress, or evaluate discussion of theories and research. Students will participate in up to four in-class debates over the course of the semester. Toward the end of the semester, students will also give a brief 10-minute presentation on the topic of their final paper.

Thought papers (20 points): A brief (typed, half a page, double spaced) thought paper should be submitted to me at the end of every class session. Thought papers might include a comment or question (this can be integrative or evaluative of the readings or extend the subject matter into interesting novel directions). You do not need to reach a definitive conclusion in these papers, but they should demonstrate that you have read and thought about the articles and related topics. Be prepared to take part in discussion and raise your thoughts during class time. No credit will be given for late papers.

Paper (40 points): The final paper (about 10-15 double-spaced pages) may be either a critical review of the literature or a proposal for research. The topic should be closely related to and informed by the issues discussed in class. Critical reviews of the literature should be in the form of a standard APA manuscript submitted to a review journal (e.g., Psychological Review) and should not simply describe past research but rather offer a
critical analysis and theoretical integration of past research. Research proposals should be in the form of a standard APA manuscript submitted to an empirical journal (e.g., *Emotion*) with an introduction section (describing rationale for the proposed study), a method section (giving specific detail about the proposed methodology), a results section (describing the predicted results), and a discussion section (describing the implications of the predicted results). You are encouraged to meet with me to discuss your paper ideas. Late papers without prior approval will not be graded except under exceptional documented circumstances. The paper is due in my mailbox or under my office door by **5 pm on December 5th, 2014**.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the total number of points obtained from participation, thought papers, and the final paper.

**Total Points: 100**  
Scores required for each letter designation in the grading system:  
A: 90-100 points  
B: 80-89 points  
C: 70-79 points  
D: 60-69 points  
F: any score below 60 points

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“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”
Week 1 (Sept. 2nd): Introduction
No reading

Week 2 (Sept. 9th): What is an emotion? Historical background
Charles Darwin (1872). The expression of emotion in man and animals.
William James (1884). What is an emotion?
Walter Cannon (1915). Bodily changes in pain, hunger, fear, and rage.
Sigmund Freud (1941). The unconscious.

Week 3 (Sept. 16th): Where do emotions come from?

Week 4 (Sept. 23rd): What is the nature of emotion?
*** (see also the media write up related to his work)

Week 5 (Sept. 30th): Cognitive models of emotion

Week 6 (Oct. 7th): Emotion and development
Week 7 (Oct. 14th): Facial expressions of emotion

Week 8 (Oct. 21st): Physiological correlates
*** (also pick and read one of the critiques at the end of this article)

Week 9 (Oct. 28th): Effects on judgment and choice

Week 10 (Nov. 4th): What is the function of emotion?
**Week 11 (Nov. 11th): Are emotions “real”?**


**Week 12 (Nov. 18th): Future Directions**


***find one 2014 article that offers something new or interesting***

**Week 13 (Nov. 25th): Thanksgiving**

**Week 14 (Dec. 2nd): Presentations on final paper**