History 154C – Cultural Anthropology 154D
THE HISTORY OF EMOTIONS (CCI, CZ, R, W)

Fall, 2011
10:05-11:20 am, MW, 107 Friedl Building
Instructor: William M. Reddy (wmr@duke.edu)

This course examines what emotions are and how they might change over time or across space. The course surveys the history of emotions in Europe and the U.S., from ancient times to the present, and sets this “Western” emotional history in the context of Polynesian, Balinese, Bengali, Japanese, and bedouin case studies to give a sense of how widely human emotional experience can vary.

Students will be expected to: (i) participate in class discussion, lead and prepare notes on at least one discussion (15% of grade); (ii) write a short paper at the beginning of the term (due 5 October, 5-6 pp. in length - 10 % of grade); (iii) write two somewhat longer papers (5-10 pp. - 25% of grade each), the first due on 31 October the second on 28 November; and (iv) complete a (take-home) final examination - (25% of grade). Because this is a writing-in-the-disciplines course, you will be required to rewrite at least two of the three papers (your choice). Rewritten papers will be due two weeks after the paper is returned to you, or, in the case of the second somewhat longer paper, the final draft will be due at the same time as the final examination.

OUTLINE

Monday, 29 August. Introduction.

I. What are emotions?

Wednesday, 31 August – Monday, 5 September. Are there basic emotions?


Wednesday, 7 September. Are emotions culturally constructed?


Monday, 12 September. Emotions in some nonwestern settings.


II. Emotions in the Ancient Mediterranean.

Wednesday, 14 September – Monday 19 September. Emotions in ancient Greece.
Readings: (1) Homer, *The Iliad*, Books 1, 22;  

Wednesday, 21 September – Monday, 26 September. Roman Stoicism in the Early Empire.  
Readings: (1) Seneca, *On Anger*, Book I (Loeb edition of 1928, translated by John W. Basore, pp. 107-165);  
(2) Tacitus, *Annals*, 31-60; 198-204; 223-227; 284-286; 341-343, 375-377;  

Wednesday, 28 September – Monday, 3 October. *No class.*

[First paper due Wednesday, 5 October. 5-6 pp. Based on reading assignments so far, provide a critical evaluation of the question: Are Emotions Culturally Constructed?]

Wednesday, 5 October. How Christianity Changed Emotional Experience.  
Reading: Augustine, *City of God*, Book XIV.

[10-11 October – Fall Break]

III. Honor and Chivalry in Medieval Europe.  
Wednesday, 12 October – Monday, 17 October. Kinship and revenge in the Merovingian era.  

Wednesday, 19 October – Wednesday, 26 October. Chivalry as an emotional code.  

[Second paper due, Monday, 31 October.]

Monday, 13 November – Monday, 21 November. The first scientific theories of emotion and their impact (1650-1815).

(2) Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury, *An Inquiry Concerning Virtue or Merit* (1711), 162-192;
(3) Nicole Eustace, *Passion is the Gale*, pp. TBA

[23-27 November – Thanksgiving Break]

[Third paper due, Monday, 28 November.]

Monday, 28 November – Wednesday, 30 November. Points of comparison: Heian Japan, contemporary Egypt.


**Required readings** will be taken from the following list:

Available for purchase at the Duke textbook store:

Available online, links on the course website at courses.duke.edu:


Homer, The Iliad, translated by Alexander Pope (Boston: Ginn & Co., 1898)


Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury, An Inquiry Concerning Virtue or Merit (1711)

Available through Lilly Reserve:


