

## **TPS 1465: Philosophies of Affect and Emotion**

**Dr. Megan Boler**

**Wednesdays 5-8 pm Winter 2008-09**

**LOCATION: OISE 6-272**

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### **Course Description**

This course offers an overview of theories and philosophies of emotion and affect, focusing particularly on the shift from locating emotion in the individual to feminist and poststructural accounts that understand emotions in their cultural, historical, and political contexts. Questions include: How have emotions, affect, and feeling been defined and theorized? How might theorizing emotion and affect inform new accounts of the public sphere and political philosophy, ethics, and epistemology? What is at stake in how we conceptualize emotions and affect in relation to subjectivity, public and private, race, class, gender, and agency?

### **Required Texts (available at Toronto Women's Bookstore, Harbord and Spadina)**

Sarah Ahmed, The Cultural Politics of Emotion

Megan Boler, Feeling Power: Emotions and Education

Kathleen Stewart, Ordinary Affects

Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own

Deborah Britzman, Novel Education: Psychoanalytic Studies of Learning and Not Learning (available at Caversham Bookstore, Harbord and Spadina)

**\*\*Course packet to be purchased in class January 7**

### **Recommended Texts**

Claire Colebrook, Irony

Alenka Zupancic, The Odd One In: On Comedy

Linda Hutcheon, The Politics of Postmodernism

Linda Hutcheon, A Theory of Parody

Mary Zournazi, Hope

### **Assignments**

*Attendance and Participation* 25%

*Knowledge Forum Postings* 30%

- Post 8 times during term, and respond 8 times to other people's posts.
- Sign up for one class to bring to class an artifact of popular or historical culture that reflects a cultural discourse about emotions

*Final Paper* (in two parts) 35%

- Part 1: Outline and 5 page written argument due
- Final Papers Due (15 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font, hard copy)

*In Class Co-Facilitation* 10%. On one occasion you will come to class prepared to facilitate a 30 minute discussion. Prepare by: (1) present a summary on one of the arguments from texts assigned; (2) highlight at least four key quotes from across the assigned readings and assist us to analyze them; (3) from your careful reading of the KF postings, bring to class a summary of questions, themes, concerns and connections you have seen across your colleagues' comments.

### **January 7: Introduction and Overview**

Screen clips from Marlon Riggs, *Tongues Untied*; Martha Rosler *Semiotics of the Kitchen*; Hillary Clinton's tears; Obama and hope; 1950s clip

*BEGIN READING Ordinary Affects and A Room of One's Own. Read at your own pace but complete Virginia Woolf by JANUARY 28 and Kathleen Stewart by FEBRUARY 25*

### **January 14: Surveying the Landscape of Emotions and Philosophy**

- 1) *Bring to class an object that "carries" something of yourself or emotions that you are willing to share and speak about.*
- 2) Introduction and Chapter One, Boler, Feeling Power: Emotions and Education
- 3) Elizabeth Grosz, "Feminism and the Crisis of Reason" from Feminist Epistemologies
- 4) Audre Lorde, "Poetry is Not a Luxury" and "The Master's Tools..." (1984)
- 5) Alison Jaggar, *Love and Knowledge: Emotions in Feminist Epistemology*, (1989)
- 6) Sue Campbell, "Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression"
- 7) Genevieve Lloyd from *The Man of Reason* in Women, Knowledge and Reality
- 8) bell hooks, from Talking Back
- 9) Carole Pateman, "Feminist Critiques of the Public/Private Dichotomy" from *The Disorder of Women: Democracy, Feminism, and Political Theory* (1989)
- 10) Keep reading Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own

### **Highly Recommended:**

Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism and Consumer Society" ("waning of affect")

Arlie Russell Hochschild, on Emotional Labor in The Managed Heart (1983)

Chapter 6: [www.chass.utoronto.ca/~salaff/Hochschild2.pdf](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~salaff/Hochschild2.pdf)

Introduction to What is an Emotion, by C. Calhoun and R. Solomon, eds.

### **January 21 Emotions, Culture, and Nationalism**

- Introduction and Chapter One, Boler, Feeling Power: Emotions and Education
- Lawrence Grossberg, "Mapping Popular Culture" from We Gotta get Out of This Place, Routledge 1992.
- Zembylas and Boler, "On The Spirit of Patriotism" TC Record 2002
- Lauren Berlant "The Epistemology of State Emotion" from A. Sarat, ed. Dissent in Dangerous Times, Univ. Michigan 2005
- Brian Massumi, *Fear: The Spectrum Said*
- Raymond Williams, excerpt on "Structures of Feeling" from Marxism and Literature
- Winning essay on terrorism
- Keep reading Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own

### **Recommended:**

Michelle Rosaldo, "Women, Culture and Society: A Theoretical Overview" from Woman Culture and Society, eds. Rosaldo et al, Stanford UP, 1974

Boler, Chapter 7, "License to Feel: Teaching in the Context of War"

### **January 28 The Politics of Emotions and Race**

- Sarah Ahmed, Chapter 3 “The Affective Politics of Fear”
- Frantz Fanon, from Black Skin White Masks
- Jose Esteban Munoz, “Feeling Down, Feeling Brown: Latina Affect, the Performativity of Race, and the Depressive Position” (2006)
- David Eng and Han, A Dialogue on Racial Melancholia, in Loss: The Politics of Mourning (2003)
- Elizabeth Alexander, “Can You Be Black and Look at This?” *Public Culture* 1994 7(1):77-94
- Audre Lorde, “The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action” and “Age Race Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference” from Sister/Outsider
- Sherene Razack, “Looking White People in the Eye”

FINISH reading Virginia Woolf, A Room of One’s Own

### **Recommended:**

Patricia Williams, An Alchemy of Race and Rights

Denise Riley, Am I That Name?

### **February 4 Guest Speaker: Professor Deborah Britzman, York University: Psychoanalysis and Education**

- Boler, Ch. 6, The Risks of Empathy
- Deborah Britzman, Novel Education: Psychoanalytic Studies of Learning and Not Learning

Keep reading Ordinary Affects

### **Recommended:**

Ahmed, Ch. 1 “The Contingency of Pain”

Alice Pitt and Deborah Britzman, “Speculations on qualities of difficult knowledge in teaching and learning: an experiment in psychoanalytic research,” International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education, Volume 16, Issue 6 January 2003 , pages 755 - 776

Shoshana Felman, Testimony

Freud, Civilization and its Discontents

### **February 11 Emotions and Education**

- Boler, Chapter 8, Pedagogy of Discomfort
- Elizabeth Ellsworth, “Why Doesn’t this Feel Empowering?”
- Zembylas: Dimensions of a Postmodern Culture of Emotions in Education from *Teaching with Emotion* (p201)
- Diana Fuss, “Essentialism in the Classroom”
- bell hooks, “Essentialism and Experience” from Teaching to Transgress
- Boler, “Teaching for Hope: The Ethics of Shattering World Views” from Garrison and Liston
- Bell hooks, from *Talking Back*

**Recommended:**

Boler, Chapter 5, A Feminist Politics of Emotion

Valerie Walkerdine, "On the Regulation of Speaking and Silence," from *Language, Gender and Childhood*, London: Routledge

Changing the Subject: Psychology, Social Regulation, and Subjectivity (Methuen 1984) eds  
Henriques et al

**February 18 Resentment and Anger**

- Nietzsche, from Genealogy of Morals
- Margaret Urban Walker: Resentment and Assurance from *Moral Repair: Reconstructing Moral Relations After Wrongdoing* 2006, Cambridge U Press, p 110-150.
- Solomon and Murphy, Negative Emotions pps. 228-231
- Wendy Brown "Wounded Attachments"
- Macalester Bell *A Woman's Scorn*
- Keep reading Ordinary Affects

**Recommended:**

Eve Sedgwick, "Paranoid Reading"

Karyn Ball, "Wanted, Dead or Distracted: On Resentment in History, Philosophy, and Everyday Life" Cultural Critique 52 (2002) 235-267

**February 25 Shame**

- Ahmed Ch. 5, "Shame Before Others"
- Gloria Anzaldúa, from Borderlands/La Mestiza (Chs 2, 5, 7)
- Jill Locke "Shame and the Future of Feminism" (2007)
- Ullaliina Lethinen, "How does one know what shame is?" (1998)
- Sandra Bartky, Shame and Gender

FINISH reading Ordinary Affects

**March 4 Guest Speaker: Professor Mari Ruti, Department of English:**

**Trauma**

Ahmed, Ch. 4, "The Performativity of Disgust"

*Other Readings TBA:*

Cathy Caruth, Shoshana Felman, Ruth Leys, or Kelly Oliver

**March 11 Professor Amy Mullin, Department of Philosophy: Trust and Love**

Ahmed, Ch. 2 "The Organization of Hate"

Ahmed Ch. 6, "In the Name of Love"

Audre Lorde, Uses of the Erotic/The Erotic as Power

*Other Readings TBA*

*March 18 Spring Break*

**March 25**

Lauren Berlant, “The Subject of True Feeling”

Brian Massumi, Intro from A Shock to Thought

Ahmed, Ch. 8. “Feminist Attachments”

Bernice Johnson Reagon, “Coalition Politics”

Brian Massumi on Hope, Interview with Mary Zournazi

Introduction, Affectivity

**April 1 Irony and Humor**

Linda Hutcheon, Chs, 1 and 2 from Irony’s Edge: the theory and politics of irony (1994)

Claire Colebrook, Irony selections

Alenka Zupancic, The Odd One In: On Comedy—selections (pps.3-10;43-60;111-147)