

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: The Sociology of Emotions

2010-2011

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Course description: Emotions construct and reconstruct interpersonal and social experiences. They are personal feelings and also cultural and ideological ritualistic expressions. Through emotional reflections we read others and understand the social world around us. But emotions are not only "whiskers" for reflexive knowledge. During the past decades, sociologists have been studying, theoretically and empirically, emotions and their social, cultural, and political significance. This course introduces students to the major sociological and anthropological theories of emotions (evolutionary, phenomenological, interactionist, constructionist and discursive). It will focus on different social spheres of emotions, such as fear, anger, hate, love, shame and loneliness, as well as on the relations between emotions – conciliatory and antagonistic. We will also explore the role that emotions play in constructing collective identities and identifications.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Sociology or Anthropology.

Objectives: 1. To study how sociologists conceive and theorize emotions as well as apply their concepts of emotions to social and cultural understandings of social relations, structures and social action, 2. To expose students to concepts such as emotional work, feeling rules, emotional management, reflexive emotions, and emotional socialization, 3. To study the interconnections among concepts of self and identity, social discourse, and emotions, and finally, 4. To rethink the significance of emotions and how they work as social and political forces.

Course Requirements:

I expect you to: 1) attend all classes, 2) come prepared to discuss the readings for each class, and, 3) to submit a short (5 pages) critical discussion of the readings, submission 16/12/2010. In addition there will be a final exam at the end of the semester.

Gradings: Short paper --- 40%
Final exam ---- 60%

Reading List

The Organismic Mode

Darwin, C. 1965. *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Preface by Konrad Lorenz, Introduction, 1-26

Freud, S. 1964. "The Unconscious." *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, Vol. 14. London: The Hogarth Press.

Language

Abu-Lughod, L. and Lutz, A.C. 1990. "Introduction: emotion, discourse, and the politics of everyday life." In, C. Lutz and L. Abu-Lughod. *Language and the Politics of Emotions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Social Roles

Thoits, Peggy, 1985. "Self-labeling processes in mental illness: The role of emotional deviance." *American Journal of Sociology*, 91(2): 221-249.

Social Norms

Hochschild, A. 1979. "Emotions Work, Feeling Rules and Social Structure" *American J. of Sociology*, vol. 85:551-575.

Elias, N. 1978. *The Civilizing Process* (pp. 169-205.). New York: Urizen Books.

Socialization

Lutz, C. 1985. "Cultural Patterns and Individual Differences in the Child's Emotional Meaning System." In Lewis and Saarni, Eds. *The Socialization of Emotions* (pp. 37-57).

The Role of Power

Brown, W. 2006. "Tolerance as a discourse of power." In *Regulating Aversion* (pp. 25-47). Princeton: Princeton University Press.

hooks, b. 1995. "killing rage: militant resistance" and "beyond black rage: ending racism" In bell hooks, *killing rage, ending racism* (8-20, 21-30). New York: Henry Holt and

Cultural Differences

Briggs, J. 1978. "The Origins of Nonviolence: Inuit Management of Aggression" In Montagh, A. Ed. *Learning Non-Aggression* (pp. 54-93). New York: Oxford University Press.

Scheper-Hughes, N. 1990. "Mother Love and Child Death in Northeast Brazil" In, J. W. Stigler, R.A. Shweder and G. Herdt, Eds. *Cultural Psychology* (542-568). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Structural Approaches

Swidler, A. 1980. "Love and Adulthood in American Culture" In Smelser, N.J., and Erikson, E. Eds. *Themes of Work and Love in Adulthood* (pp.107-125). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Illouz, E. 1997. *Consuming the Romantic Utopia: Love and the Cultural Constructions of Capitalism* (25-47; 247-287). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Barbalet, J.M. 1998. *Emotion, Social Theory, and Social Structure* ("Fear and Change 149-169). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Symbolic Interaction

Wood, L. 1986. "Loneliness" In R. Harre, Ed. *The Social Construction of Emotions* (pp. 184-208). Oxford, UK: Basil Blackwell.

Emotions and Organizations from a Cultural Perspective

Myerhoff, B. 1978. "We Fight to Keep Warm" In, *Number Our Days*. N.Y: Simone and Schuster.