

EAST493: Feelings, Affects, and Emotions in Asia

General Information

Term and Year: Fall 2024

Course pre-requisite(s): None

Course Schedule: Tuesdays 11:35 am to 2:25 pm

Number of Credits: 3

Instructor Information

Name and Title: Kimberly Chung, Assistant Professor

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Office location: 680 Sherbrooke, Room 274

Office hours: Tuesdays 2:35 pm-3:35 pm; Wednesdays 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Communication Plan

Please email the instructor with any course content related questions. Responses may take up to 48 hours during the week, exclusive of weekends.

Course Overview

This course explores developing conversations in the growing field of affect studies that focus on the conscious and preconscious ways feelings, emotions, and affects play an important role in the social, political, and cultural life of Asia. Drawing from interdisciplinary scholarship and a wide array of theories on affect, this course will traverse assumed boundaries between the "individual" and "the collective" through an exploration of positive feelings, like happiness, and negative feelings, like anger and disgust, focusing on the role emotions and feelings play in social and political formations. This course will consider topics like the cultural politics of emotion, the way affect, visceral responses, and emotions are related to collective identity, how structures of feeling have driven social movements, embodiment and sensorial experience, genre and affective response, and the fictional representation of affects.

This course will be in discussion format. Reading and/or viewing assignments are due on the date that they appear on the course schedule.

No previous knowledge of East Asian languages is required. All media and literature will be shown or given with subtitles or in translation.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course:

- 1) students will develop an understanding of the relationship between affects, structures of feeling, culture, and politics.
- 2) students will understand an important body of contemporary theoretical discourse (ie. knowledge of key theorists in the field).
- 3) students will be able to apply a learned methodology and a theoretical paradigm to their own independent readings of primary texts.
- 4) students will be able to converse with an existing scholarly discussion in the mode of a contemporary theoretical discourse and/or methodology, will synthesize and utilize this field of knowledge as secondary sources in their own research, and bring this framework into their own analysis of primary texts.

Required Course Materials

All readings are available on mycourses. Students are required to participate actively in class discussions. Active participation requires completing all assigned readings before coming to class and being prepared to contribute to class discussion. Reading assignments are due on the date that they appear on the course schedule.

Attendance

Attendance in this course is required. Students are permitted 1 absence without penalty. More than 1 absence will affect the student's attendance mark (each absence will result in a reduction of 2% of total grade). There will be no distinction in the course between "excused" and "unexcused" absences except in exceptional circumstances when documentation is provided.

Evaluation:

Participation:	15% (rubric provided on MyCourses)
Discussion Posts:	20%
Midterm Primary Source Written Analysis (Oct. 22):	15%
Midterm Primary Source Presentation (Oct. 22):	5%
Final Research Paper Proposal Meeting (Nov. 19):	5%
Final Research Paper (due Dec 10th):	40%

Participation

As this is an advanced humanities course, participation is considered an important part of learning and training. Being an engaged listener, active learner, effective communicator, and collaborative student are some of the skills that are being highlighted through the evaluation of participation. This class is a space for one to develop and hone these foundational skills. A detailed rubric on how participation is evaluated will be provided on mycourses under "Content." If participation poses any difficulties for a student, please communicate with the instructor.

Discussion Posts

Students are required to write 8 discussion posts over the course of the semester. Each discussion post should be around two paragraphs and should be posted by noon on the Monday before class by 6pm.

The suggested format for each discussion post is 1) If it is a piece of secondary scholarship, a summary of the main arguments (at least two). If it is a primary source, a close reading of its qualities. 2) a quote or passage from the assigned reading that you have questions and/or comments on. 3) any questions for class discussion that were inspired by the readings.

Midterm Primary Source Written Analysis

Students will be asked to write a preliminary close reading of a primary source of around 500-700 words. This close reading must connect to one of the broader themes of the class and the primary will be of the student's choosing. This primary source must be different from the primary sources analyzed in class. Students will present their close readings in class. Students are encouraged to but

are not required to use this analysis in their final paper.

Midterm Primary Source Presentation

On the day of assignment submission (Oct. 22), students will introduce and summarize their primary source close readings in class. Each student will have 10 minutes to share.

Final Research Paper and Proposal

Students will meet with the instructor on a day assigned for final research paper proposals to discuss their final research paper topics (students will be given points for completing this meeting). Students will submit a 12-15 page research paper connecting independent primary source research to one or more of the topics introduced in the course.

Late Assignment Policy

No extensions will be given for assignments. Late assignments are subject to a penalty of 3% per day, including weekends. Exceptions are only made in exceptional circumstances and students should contact the instructor *in well advance of the due date* with appropriate documentation (ie. medical note)

Language of Assignment Submission

"In accord with McGill University's [Charter of Students' Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives." (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

« Conformément à la [Charte des droits de l'étudiant](#) de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

Reread Requests

Requests for re-read of quizzes or exams must be made within 10 working days after the graded assignment has been made available to the student. Requests should be made according to the "Reread Policy of the Department of East Asian Studies" available on mycourses under "Content."

Academic Integrity

"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information)."

"L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest)."

Statement on the Use of Generative AI Tools

If you choose to use generative AI tools as a learning aid on any of the EAST493 assignments in any way, it is expected that the AI generative tool be properly referenced and accompanied with a description outlining why the AI writing tool was used/for what purpose, and how it enhanced your assignment. Failure to include a proper reference and description will be considered a breach of academic integrity. If you have any questions about the use of generative AI tools, please reach out to your instructor for clarification.

****In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of McGill University, assessment tasks in a course are subject to change, provided students are sent adequate and timely communications regarding the change****
