Emotions, Motivation, and Development – SCI 614

This class focuses on research and theory regarding children’s and adults’ emotions and emotional development. Topics include: the motivational and communicative roles of emotions; biological substrates of emotions; emotion regulation and social competence; adult socialization of children’s emotions; nature and nurture in emotions; and a number of other developmental and clinical issues. Class sessions will typically include a lecture during the first part of the class, followed by breakout discussion groups and ad-hoc group summaries of discussion themes. In addition, we will also see relevant movies and participate in at least one informal class experiment. During the last few classes, each student will give a brief oral summary of a theme related to his or her final research paper.

Course Requirements

1) Consistent attendance & timely reading of assignments. Please let me know in advance if you have an anticipated conflict, and please email me if something unexpected happens.

2) The major written requirement is a 10-12 page term paper on a topic appropriate to the class content. On-going feedback will be provided regarding possible topics, guidelines on how to write Psychology papers, how to use available library resources at Wesleyan, etc. The paper is due one week after the last class, and it should be mailed to me at 335 Ridge Rd., Middletown, CT 06457.

3) A brief oral presentation (20 minutes) on a theme related to the term paper. More details will be provided in class.

Grading Policy

The class paper will count for 65% of your grade. You may get preliminary feedback on a draft of your paper (in this case submitted by email) prior to submitting your final version. Feedback will be limited to general aspects of your paper, including appropriate writing style, basic clarity, and depth/sophistication. The feedback phase is NOT required and is not graded.

Oral reports will count for 20% of your grade and will be evaluated on clarity and informational content. The remaining 15% of your grade is based on class participation.

Required Text & Readings

There is one required text, Understanding Emotions (2nd edition, 2006) by Oakley, Keltner, & Jenkins, Oxford (England): Basil Blackwell. Other readings in the form of xeroxed articles and chapters will be available from PIP Printing (ordering instructions will provided in class)
Readings

Week 1 - Overview of the Field

Week 2 - Theoretical Foundations


Week 3 – Biological Roots of Emotions


Week 4 – Attachment, Temperament, & Emotions


Week 5 – Emotions & Cognition


Week 6 – Emotion Regulation


EMOTIONS AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY – Weeks 7-9

Week 7 – Background and Theory


Week 8 – Emotions & Moods in Depression & Anxiety Disorders


Week 9 – Emotions, Victimization, & Aggression – the Arsenio Version


reasoning, and emotion attributions: Relations with adolescents’ reactive and proactive aggression. *Child Development, 80*(6), 1739-1755.

**Week 10 – Positive Emotions**


**Week 11 – Culture, Gender, & Emotions**


**Week 12 – Integration & Summary**