

Department of Anthropology
College of Arts & Sciences
University of Pennsylvania

ANTH 2790

Theorizing the Role of Affect in Society and Culture

Fall 2023

Thursday 1:45–4:45 p.m.

Museum 328

Instructor: Greg Urban (*he, him, his*)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Affect has held a prominent place in social theory, including the role of fear in Hobbes's formulation of the origins of civil society, respect (for the sacred) in Durkheim's theory of religion, guilt in Freud's understanding of civilization, and hate (and self-hate) in Fanon's analysis of race relations. Can such formulations be brought into conversation with the biological understandings of human beings from Darwin up to recent developments in affective neuroscience? What light has psychoanalysis shed on these issues? This reading-and-discussion-based seminar focuses on such questions. We explore the terrain of social, cultural, and psychoanalytic theory in light of conceptualizations growing out of the biological side of anthropology, and we look at the biological side of anthropology from the perspective of sociocultural and psychoanalytic theory. We trace social and cultural theorization through twentieth century developments, as well as exploring twenty-first century developments in affect theory within anthropology and adjacent disciplines, including works by Judith Butler and Kathleen Stewart.

REQUIREMENTS

During the course of the semester, students will write short reading responses, and lead class discussions. They will also work on and submit a final term paper (2,500-3,000 words) in which they explore additional literature on or go more deeply into one of the weekly themes from the semester, or on a topic they themselves propose that is approved by the course instructor.

BOOKS

The principal books for the class are the following.

Darwin, Charles. 1896. *Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals*. New York: D. Appleton and Company. [Available online through Penn library]

Elliott, Anthony. 2002. *Psychoanalytic Theory: An Introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012. *The Archaeology of Mind: Neuroevolutionary Origins of Human Emotions*. [This is NOT currently available online through the library; I am working on this with the library, but I'm not holding my breath].

SCHEDULE

Week 1

Thursday, August 29, 2023

General discussion of the relationship between biological processes (with a focus on neuroscience, especially the role of affect) and sociocultural processes (with a focus on what individuals acquire by interacting with other individuals, such as ways of cognizing or understanding the world, including beliefs, ways of acting or behaving, and ways of valuing, as well as the principal means of communication (language)). The nature of coercion.

Week 2

Thursday, September 7, 2023 (Evolution and Society)

Sociocultural

Stewart, Kathleen. 2007. *Ordinary Affects*, pp. 1-10. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. [Book available for download through the library.]

Psychoanalytic

Elliott, Anthony. 2002. "Introduction" and "Chapter 1: The Making of the Self: Divergences in Psychoanalytic Theory," pp. 1-8 and 9-39 in *Psychoanalytic Theory: An Introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 1: Ancestral Passions, pp. 1-46. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Week 3

Thursday, September 14, 2023 (Expression and Repression)

Psychoanalytic

Elliott, Anthony. 2002. Chapter 2: Modern Culture and Its Repressed: From Freud to Lasch," pp. 40-67 in *Psychoanalytic Theory: An Introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Biological

Darwin, Charles. 1896. Ch 1-3, "General Principles of Expression," in *Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals*, pp. 27-82.

Week 4

Thursday, September 21, 2023 (Consciousness and Collective Consciousness)

Sociocultural

Durkheim, Emile. 2008 (1915). "Conclusion" to *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, pp. 528-574

Kluchin, Abby. 2017. "At the Limits of Feeling: Religion, Psychoanalysis, and the Affective Subject." In *Feeling Religion*, John Corrigan (ed.), 242-259. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 2: The Evolution of Affective Conscious: Studying Emotional Feelings in Other Animals, pp. 47-94.

Week 5

Thursday, September 28, 2023 (Seeking and Objects Sought)

Psychoanalytic

Elliott, Anthony. 2002. Chapter 3: "Object Relations, Kleinian Theory, and Self-Psychology: From Erickson to Kohut," pp. 68-98 in *Psychoanalytic Theory: An Introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 3, The SEEKING System, pp. 95-144.

Week 6

Thursday, October 5, 2023 (Anger, Rage 89 or 81)

Sociocultural

Einstein, Albert and Sigmund Freud. 1933. "Why War?" [An exchange of letters]. *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, Volume XXII (1932-1936): *New Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis and Other Works*, 195-216.

Butler, Judith. 2019. "Political Philosophy in Freud: War, Destruction, Mania, and the Critical Function." *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Philosophy and Psychoanalysis*. Richard G.T. Gipps and Michael Lacewing (eds.), 726-750.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 5, The Ancestral Sources of RAGE, pp. 145-173.

De Waal, Frans. 2019. "Cucumber and Grape Monkeys." In *Mama's Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us About Ourselves*, pp. 207-215. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Week 7

Thursday, October 12, 2023

FALL BREAK: NO CLASS

Week 8

Thursday, October 19, 2023 (Fear)

Sociocultural

Robin, Corey. 2000. "Fear: A Genealogy of Morals." *Social Research* 57(4): 1085:1115.

Massumi, Brian "The Future Birth of the Affective Fact," in *The Affect Theory Reader*, pp. 52-70.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 5, The Ancestral Roots of FEAR, pp. 175-202.

Week 9

Thursday, October 26, 2023 (Eros)

Psychoanalytic

Elliott, Anthony. 2002. Chapter 4: "Poststructuralist Anxiety: Subjects of Desire," pp. 99-124 in *Psychoanalytic Theory: An Introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Sociocultural

Lorde, Audre. 2007 [1984]. "The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power." In *Sexualities and Communication in Everyday Life: A Reader*. Karen E. Lovaas and Mercilee M. Jenkins (eds.), 87-91. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 7, Lustful Passions of the Mind, pp. 245-282.

Week 10

Thursday, November 2, 2023 (Care)

Sociocultural

Lane, Carrie M. 2017. "The Work of Care, Caring at Work: An Introduction." *Anthropology of Work Review* XXXVIII(1): 3-5.

Seaver, Nick. 2021. CARE AND SCALE: "Decorrelative Ethics in Algorithmic Recommendation." *Cultural Anthropology* 36(3): 509-537

Elley-Brown, Margie J. and Judith K. Pringle. 2021. "Sorge, Heideggerian Ethic of Care: Creating More Caring Organizations." *Journal of Business Ethics* 168(1): 23–35.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 8, Nurturing Love: The CARE System, pp. 283-310.

Week 11

Thursday, November 9, 2021 (Sadness and Grief)

Sociocultural

Radcliffe-Brown Andaman Islanders 239-246 (275-282) selection on Weeping

Chavoshian, Sana. 2020. "Dream-Realities: *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* 11: 148–162

De Waal, Frans. 2019. "Mama's Last Hug: An Ape Matriarch's Farewell." In *Mama's Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us About Ourselves*, pp. 13-47. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 9, Born to Cry: The PANIC/GRIEF System and the Genesis of Life-Sustaining Social Bonds, pp. 311-347.

Week 12

Thursday, November 16, 2023 (Humor and Laughter)

Psychoanalytic

Christoff, Maria and Barry Dauphin. 2017. "Freud's Theory of Humor." 3 pages. On ResearchGate:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317386267_Freud%27s_theory_of_humor.

Freud, Sigmund. (1905). *Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious*. The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, Volume VIII (1905): Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious, 1-247 (pp. 9-29 selection)

Sociocultural

Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. 1952. "On Joking Relationships." In *Structure and Function in Primitive Society: Essays and Addresses*, pp. 90-105. New York: The Free Press.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 10, "PLAYful Dreamlike Circuits of the Brain," pp. 351-387.

Week 13

SPECIAL CLASS DAY – THURSDAY CLASSES MEET TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 (Gender in Psychoanalysis)

Psychoanalytic

Elliott, Anthony. 2002. Chapter 5: "Psychoanalytic Feminism: From Chodorow to Butler," pp. 125-155 in *Psychoanalytic Theory: An Introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Sociocultural

Butler, Judith. "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire." In *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, pp. 3-44. New York: Routledge.

Week 14

Thursday, November 30, 2021 (Identity)

Psychoanalytic

Elliott, Anthony. 2002. Chapter 6: "The Dislocating World of Postmodernism: Identity in Troubled Times," pp. 156-174 in *Psychoanalytic Theory: An Introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Sociocultural

Appiah, Kwame Anthony. 2008. "Foreword" to *Black Skin, White Masks*, pp. vii-x. New York: Grove Press.

Fanon, Frantz. 2008 [1952]. *Black Skin, White Masks*, Chapter 6: "The Black Man and Psychopathology," pp. 120-145 ONLY. New York: Grove Press.

Morrison, Toni. 2007. "Foreword" to *The Bluest Eye: A Novel* by Toni Morrison (original publication date of novel 1970), pp. ix-xiii. New York: Vintage Books.

Meer, Nasar. 2019. "W. E. B. Du Bois, double consciousness and the 'spirit' of recognition." *The Sociological Review* 67(1) 47-62.

Biological

Panksepp, Jaak and Lucy Biven 2012 *The Archaeology of Mind: Neoevolutionary Origins of Human emotions*. Chapter 11, "Toward a Neurobiology of the Soul: The Core SELF and the Genesis of Primary-Process Feelings," pp. 389-424.

Week 15
Thursday, December 7, 2023

CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

Syllabus update June 21, 2023