

Physiology and Psychology of Emotion PSY494H1F – LEC0101 – Winter 2025

Course Description: This course will focus on the biological and psychological basis of emotions. We will be discussing various philosophical traditions related to emotion as well as investigating the historical and current scientific literature of emotion research. Lectures will elucidate various theories related to how the brain and body contribute to emotional experience. We will explore how emotions arise from neural and somatic dynamics as well as the social influences of emotional experience and expression. We will also address how emotions are adaptive, how they differ culturally, how they shape perception, and how they are altered in psychopathology. Upon completion of this course, you will have proficient understanding of how emotions are studied scientifically, how this area of research has evolved over the past hundred years, as well as the limitations and future directions of scientific emotional inquiry. Moreover, you should come away from this course with a deeper understanding of your own emotional selves.

Prerequisites:

PSY201H1/ECO220Y1/EEB225H1/GGR270H1/POL222H1/SOC202H1/STA220H1/STA238H1/STA248H1/STA288H1/PSY201H5/STA215H5/STA220H5/PSYB07H3/STAB22H3/STAB23H3/STAB57H3, and PSY260H1/PSYB38H3 or PSY270H1/PSY270H5/PSYB57H3/COG250Y1 or PSY290H1/PSY290H5/PSYB64H3/HMB200H1/PSL300H1

Instructor: Vignash Tharmaratnam

Email: vignash.tharmaratnam@mail.utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-3 pm on Zoom

Teaching Assistant: Kaitlin Derbyshire

Email: k.derbyshire@mail.utoronto.ca

Office Hours: All office hours will be online by appointment

Lectures: Lectures will take place on Fridays from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Lectures are in-person in room RW 140. Lecture slides will be posted on Quercus on a weekly basis the night before the lecture. The course website on Quercus can be found at <https://q.utoronto.ca/>.

Quercus Info: This course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete course assessments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term, so please make it a habit to log in to the site on a regular, even daily, basis. To access the course website, go to the UofT Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, you should see the link or "card" for "PSY494H1 F LEC0101 Physiology and Psychology of Emotion". You may need to scroll through other cards to find this. SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE:

Please note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

Readings:

Textbook: [Shiota, M., & Kalat, J. \(2017\). Emotion \(3rd ed.\): Oxford University Press](#). – Rentable on VitalSource (click the hyperlink!).

NOTE: Depending on the topic being discussed, there also may be articles posted on Quercus to supplement the textbook readings.

Email: When you e-mail, please include “PSY494” in the subject heading. Responses to emails will be made as soon as possible, please expect at least 48-hours for a reply, longer on weekends.

Evaluation:

Midterm Test (40%) (during class time, **in person** – February 28th)

- The midterm test will consist of multiple-choice questions covering the first half of the course. **Content covered will include all lecture and readings assigned for the first half of the course.** More details as the course progresses.

Term Paper Outline (5%) (Due March 2nd before midnight)

- Students will be asked to complete an outline of their term paper, acting as a rough guide for writing their final term paper. More details as the course progresses.

Term Paper (15%) (Due March 30th before midnight)

- Students will be asked to write a 4–6-page argumentative thesis paper related to the physiology and psychology of emotion. More details as the course progresses.

Final Exam (40%) (during the exam period, **in-person**)

- The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions covering the second half of the course. This is a non-cumulative final, and the questions will cover only the second half of the course. **Content covered will include all lecture and readings assigned for the second half of the course.** More details as the course progresses.

Course Timetable:

Date	Readings
Jan 10	Course Overview
	Chapter 1: The Nature of Emotion
Jan 17	Chapter 2: The Evolution of Emotion
	Chapter 3: Culture and Emotion
Jan 24	Chapter 4: What Elicits Emotions?
Jan 31	Chapter 5: Emotional Expression in the Face, Posture, and Voice
Feb 7	Chapter 6: Emotion and the Central Nervous System
Feb 14	Chapter 7: The Autonomic Nervous System and Hormones
Feb 21	READING WEEK
Feb 28	MIDTERM TEST
Mar 7	Chapter 9: Emotions in Relationships and Society
Mar 14	Chapter 10: Emotion and Cognition
Mar 21	Chapter 14: Emotion in Clinical Psychology
Mar 28	Chapter 15: Emotion Regulation
Apr 4	CATCH-UP LECTURE

Assignment Submission: All assignments (term paper outline and term paper) will be due before 11:59pm on their due date. These assignments are to be submitted on Quercus in the “Assignments” area. These papers should be written according to the formatting requirements stated below. It’s your responsibility to ensure you have a properly working internet connection and save your work while you are completing it. I recommend you send yourself many emails with updated Word document drafts throughout the writing process, or using Google Docs to save a copy online. It is your responsibility to save frequently and have up-to-date drafts saved in more than one place. Please avoid last-minute submissions.

Missed Assignments and Tests:

Students can only submit ONE ACORN absence per semester as documentation for missing assignments and tests. Other forms that are valid to provide documentation for missing assignments include (but are not limited to) Verification of Illness (VOI) documents, a College Registrar’s Office (RO) letter, or an Accessibility Letter. Please submit a supporting document for your late assignment submission or missed test within one week of due date or test date respectively, otherwise you will receive a zero. **Late penalties for the term paper outline and term paper are -10% per day. To be excused for a late assignment submission, you must notify as soon as possible, and no later than one week after missing the submission due date.** For missed tests, once appropriate documentation is submitted, a make-up test will be rescheduled at a later date.

Assignment Grading Review: You can request an office hour from your TA to review your assignments within two weeks of releasing the grades on Quercus. Any individual meetings outside of these office hours are up to the TA’s discretion, but you have two weeks from the release of the grades to request to review your assignments. Your TA will hold office hours on Zoom, or whichever platform works best, to allow you to review your assignment.

Grade Appeals: If after meeting with your TA you are still dissatisfied with the grading of your assignments, you can submit a written appeal request to your instructor detailing why you think you deserve a higher grade. You cannot submit an appeal if you have not first met with your TA. You have two weeks from when the marks are released to submit an appeal, but only after meeting with the TA. Any appeal request made after this time frame will not be considered. Be aware that your mark may stay the same, go up, or go down.

Writing: One of the main objectives of this course is for you to develop your skills as a critical thinker and writer. There are many writing resources at UofT to help you improve your writing (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice>). Please see the section about writing help in this syllabus as well as additional information about writing help on Quercus. I have uploaded information about effective, persuasive scientific writing as well as student examples of high- quality writing on Quercus. Please review this information before you write your paper.

Plagiarism: Submitting a paper that you did not write, recycling papers you have written for other classes, copying and pasting without quote or citations, or poorly summarizing material by changing only a few words ALL constitutes plagiarism. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://teaching.utoronto.ca/ed-tech/teaching-technology/pdt/pdt-faq/>).

Academic Integrity: All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism—representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program—is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to me or your TA for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the UofT writing support website at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>.

Religious Accommodations: As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Accessibility and Diversity: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) during the first week of the class by visiting <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/new-registration>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS. If you are registered with AS, please notify me so that I am aware of the accommodations you may need throughout the semester.

Academic Success: If you need help with time management, goal setting, study tips, and/or taking good notes, you can meet with a learning strategist at Academic Success to learn some helpful strategies: <https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc>.

Accommodation for Personal Reasons: There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or accommodation. They may be able to provide you with a College Registrar's letter of support to give to your instructors, and importantly, connect you with other resources on campus for help with your situation.

Mental Health and Well-Being: As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation, financial concerns, family worries and so forth. These factors may affect your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate fully in daily activities. Everyone feels stressed now and then – it is a normal part of university life. Some days are better than others, and there is no wrong time to reach out.

There are resources for every situation and every level of stress. There are many helpful resources available through your College Registrar or through Student Life (<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca> and <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/feeling-distressed>). An important part of the University experience is learning how and when to ask for help. Please take the time to inform yourself of available resources.

Specific Medical Circumstances: If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. You can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI. For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break

your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.