

Huron University College
Department of English
English 3265G: Literature, Culture and the Emotions
Dr. John Vanderheide

Class: Mon 2:30-3:30 Wed 3:30-5:30 HUC W102

Office: HUC A203

Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-1:30

Email: jvande29@uwo.ca

Antirequisite(s):

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of any 1000-level English course. [English 2265F/G](#) (Introduction to Theory) is strongly recommended as preparation for this course, or permission of the Department.

Course Description

In the past decades, the fields of literary and cultural studies have been undergoing a so-called “affective turn”: indicating a renewed widespread interest in, and writing on affect, bodily feeling, and emotion. This course offers students opportunities to become conversant at an advanced level with a number of the most important contemporary theorists of affect, and to apply their ideas as tools in the analysis of other kinds of cultural representations of human emotional life—poetic, novelistic and cinematic.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who complete the course will have the opportunity to accomplish the following:

- Develop an understanding of an important contemporary area of theoretical and critical discourse and the theorists and critics involved in this area
- Develop a greater understanding of the longstanding association between literature, culture and the emotions
- Multiply theoretical perspectives on the causes, natures and purposes of the emotions at both the personal and the collective level
- Further develop the capacity to apply theoretical paradigms and concepts to their critical reflections on literature and culture
- Develop the capacity to appreciate the scholarship of a subject and write effectively in a selected scholarly (critical/theoretical) tradition. This includes learning effective research methods, utilizing and incorporating secondary sources, and formatting and documenting work in MLA format.

Description of Class Methods

Classes will consist of lectures on, and discussions of, weekly theoretical and cultural texts. Students can expect some improvised group work on 1) specific passages in the readings, 2) scenes in the viewing, or 3) handouts on critical and theoretical perspectives. Thus, they should come to class with their readings in print or digital media, having read the work scheduled for that day, and prepared to participate in lectures, discussions, and improvised idea creation.

Students are expected to turn off their cell phones and other electronic devices during class **unless for research or creative purposes**. Any student who distracts the instructor or other students in class, and especially in screening, by idle cell-phone usage will be asked to leave the classroom or the screening. Students are encouraged to come to office hours or if that is not possible to make other arrangements to discuss course material, the course project, exams, etc.

Print Texts (to be purchased)

hooks, bell. *all about love*
Kraus, Chris. *I Love Dick*
Ngai, Sianne. *Ugly Feelings*
Stein, Gertrude. *Tender Buttons*.

Electronic Texts (to be provided)

Ahmed, Sara. "The Organisation of Hate."

"Happy Objects."
Benjamin, Walter. "Theological-Political Fragment"

"On the Concept of History"
Brennan, Teresa. *The Transmission of Affect* (selection)
Deleuze, Gilles & Felix Guattari. *A Thousand Plateaus* (selection)
Freud, Sigmund. "On Melancholia."
Klein, Melanie. "The Emotional Life of the Infant."
Kristeva, Julia. *Tales of Love* (selection)
Melville, Herman. "Bartleby the Scrivener."
Mullen, Harryette. *Trimmings*.
Ngai, Sianne. "The Cuteness of the Avant-Garde"

Schedule of Readings and Lectures

Week 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE AFFECTIVE TURN

Jan 8: Introduction to the course
Jan 10: "On Melancholia," Sigmund Freud.
"The Emotional Life of the Infant," Melanie Klein.

Week 2: INTRODUCTION TO THE AFFECTIVE TURN

Jan 15: *A Thousand Plateaus* (selections) (Deleuze & Guattari)
Jan 17: *The Transmission of Affect* (selections) (Teresa Brennan)

Week 3: HATE

Jan 22: "The Organisation of Hate" (Sara Ahmed)
Jan 24: *La Haine* (film) (Dir. Mathieu Kassovitz)

Week 4: LOVE

Jan 29: *all about love* (bell hooks)
Jan 31: *all about love* (bell hooks)

Week 5: LOVE

Feb 5: *Tales of Love* (selections) (Julia Kristeva)

Feb 7: *I Love Dick* (Chris Kraus)

Week 6: LOVE

Feb 12: *I Love Dick* (Chris Kraus)

Feb 14: *I Love Dick* (Chris Kraus)

SPRING READING BREAK (FEB 19-23)

Week 7: OTHER FEELINGS

Feb 26: “Bartleby the Scrivener” (Herman Melville)

Feb 28: *Ugly Feelings*, “Introduction” (Sianne Ngai)

Week 8: ANXIETY

Mar 5: *Ugly Feelings*, “Anxiety” (Sianne Ngai)

Mar 7: *Ugly Feelings*, “Anxiety” (Sianne Ngai)

Week 9: ANXIETY

Mar 12: *Vertigo* (film) (dir. Alfred Hitchcock)

Mar 14: *Vertigo* (film) (dir. Alfred Hitchcock)

Week 10: AFFECT & AVANT-GARDE POETRY

Mar 19: “The Cuteness of the Avant-Garde” (Sianne Ngai)

Mar 21: “The Cuteness of the Avant-Garde” (Sianne Ngai)

Week 11: AFFECT & AVANT-GARDE POETRY

Mar 26: *Tender Buttons* (selections) (Gertrude Stein)

Mar 28: *Trimmings* (Harryette Mullen)

Week 12: HAPPINESS & AVANT-GARDE CINEMA

Apr 2: “Happy Objects” (Sara Ahmed)

Apr 4: *Happy Together* (film) (Dir. Wong Kar Wai)

Week 13: HAPPINESS & NOSTALGIA

April 9: “Theological-Political Fragment,” “On the Concept of History” (Walter Benjamin)

April 11: Conclusion

Method of Evaluation and Assessment

Assignment	Due	Weight
Quiz 1	Jan 17	10%
Major Feelings Writing Assignment	Feb 28 (750-1000 words)	20%
Minor Feelings Writing Assignment	April 2 (750-1000 words)	20%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by the registrar	30%
In-class passage analysis assignment	Jan 31	5%
In-class passage analysis assignment	Mar 7	5%
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	10%

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation multiply perspectives and enrich the educational experience for all. *If you miss more than nine hours of class meetings per term (the equivalent of two weeks of class meetings), your attendance & participation grade will be forfeited automatically.* Participation means having engaged the readings and being prepared to discuss them in class.

Quiz

Short answer questions on readings in Freud, Klein, Deleuze and Guattari, and Brennan. Quiz will be made available on OWL and answers must be uploaded January 17th, by 11:59 p.m.

Passage analysis

On the dates indicated above, students will conduct in-class close reading and analysis of selected passages from the week's theory reading, handing in their work at the end of the class for assessment.

Major Feelings Writing Assignment

An application of the theories of major feelings (Ahmed, Kristeva, hooks) to a critical or creative interpretation of *La Haine* or *I Love Dick*. More details available once term begins.

Minor Feelings Writing Assignment

An application of the theories of minor feelings in Ngai to a critical or creative interpretation of *Vertigo*, *Tender Buttons*, or *Trimmings*. More details available once term begins.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions based on course material and take place in the April exam season.

Late Policy

All assignments are due by the end of class on the due date and should be handed to the instructor personally. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the instructor receives the essay.

Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 2 marks per calendar day until the instructor receives the essay. *Normally, late assignments will receive a grade but no detailed commentary.* **After 7 days, the assignment will not be accepted and a mark of 0/F will be awarded.**

Students must pass both term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the term work are not allowed to take the final examination. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term work) automatically fail the course.



Appendix to Course Outlines

Prerequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Provost and Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentLifeandSupportServices/StudentDiscipline>

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

(a) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf,

requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s)

of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

(c) **Non-medical Grounds: Consult Instructor Directly**

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Provost and Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Provost and Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Special Needs

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Provost and Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website, <http://www.huronuc.ca/AccessibilityInfo> (“Class Cancellations”).

Mental Health @ Western

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Academic Advising

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation [see above], students should contact an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services (huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/AcademicAdvisorsandServices>

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/Academics/FacultyofArtsandSocialScience>