

Lingnan University
Department of Visual Studies

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| Course Title Course | : Mind, Body, and Emotion |
| Code | : CLE9030 |
| Recommended Study Year | : Any |
| No. of Credits/Term | : 3 |
| Mode of Tuition | : Sectional |
| Class Contact Hours | : 3 hours – 1.5 hour class, 2 times/week |
| Category Prerequisite Exclusion | : Nil |
| Exemption Requirement | : Nil |

Course Description

This course explores the how mind, body, and emotion have been studied in philosophy and psychology. In the first part of the course, we will discuss different ways people have understood the relationship between mind and body, and see how these views have changed over time. In the second part of the course we will discuss in-depth two particular theories of mind, body, and emotion that will help us understand the answers to a surprisingly broad set of questions about our experiences, our emotional life, and the choices we make.

Aims

- Discuss and evaluate possible relationships between mind, body, and emotion.
- Understand differences between philosophical and psychology research

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify historical trends in views the mind/body relationship
2. Explain differences between philosophical and psychological approaches to the study of emotion
3. Describe problems with our commonsense views of emotion, the mind, and the body
4. Analyze the relationships between emotion, feeling, thoughts, and decision-making
5. Understand how our emotion labels and descriptions relate to actual emotional responses

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Outcomes will be assessed using in-class discussion, response papers, and exams.

| Learning Outcome | Assessment Method | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|
| | Response Papers | Class Participation | Midterm Exam | Final Exam |
| 1. Identify historical trends in views the mind/body relationship | X | X | X | |
| 2. Explain differences between philosophical and psychological approaches to the study of emotion | X | X | X | |
| 3. Describe problems with our commonsense views of emotion, the mind, and the body | X | X | X | |
| 4. Analyze the relationships between emotion, feeling, thoughts, and decision-making | X | X | | X |
| 5. Understand how our emotion labels and descriptions relate to actual emotional responses | X | X | | X |

Indicative Content

The first part of the course will address the following topics:

- How emotions are studied, both in philosophy and psychology
- Cartesian Dualism, Physicalism, Functionalism, and Embodied Cognitivism
- Freud's theories of the unconscious, repression, and introspection
- Which aspects of emotion are universal and which are culturally unique

The second part of the course will discuss Antonio Damasio's and Jenefer Robinson's theories of emotion, and will address the following topics:

- How emotions relate to our bodily state and our physical feelings
- Why we have emotional reactions to specific things, and how these reactions develop
- How emotions relate to our thoughts, memories, and behaviors
- The relationship between emotion and reason
- How emotion language relates to our experience of emotion

Teaching Method

Lectures, discussion, and in-class screenings of relevant videos and documentaries.

Assessment

Assessment will include four components:

- Weekly response papers (20%) are graded credit/no-credit based on timely completion. Students will provide short responses to the assigned reading based on prompts provided by the instructor.
- Class participation (15%) is based on the student's level of engagement with the course material, as evidenced by contribution to class discussion, attendance, communication with the instructor out of class, and office hour visits.
- An in-class midterm exam (30%) and final exam (35%) include multiple-choice and essay questions, designed to determine whether students understand the class material and can apply it correctly to new situations.

Required Reading

Damasio, Antonio. *Looking for Spinoza: Joy, Sorrow, and the Feeling Brain*. Mariner Books, 2003.

Supplementary Readings

Selections from the following sources will be provided to students in electronic form:

Churchland, Paul. *Matter and Consciousness : A Contemporary Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind*. Rev. ed. Cambridge Mass.: MIT Press, 1988.

Damasio, Antonio. *Descartes' Error : Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain*. New York: Putnam, 1994.

Heil, John. *Philosophy of Mind : A Contemporary Introduction*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Jacobs, Michael. *Sigmund Freud*. London: SAGE, 2003.

Robinson, Jenefer. *Deeper than Reason: Emotion and Its Role in Literature, Music, and Art*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3* hours of class contact and 6* hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.

* Numbers of hours are subject to adjustment for individual courses.