

Emotion

A Drama course proposal

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Summary: An in-depth course on the phenomenon of emotion in humans. Topics include the biological basis of emotion; ways of modeling emotion; the relationship between emotion, social relationships and stories; and the various manifestations of emotion in dramatic performances. Readings will relate emotion to a wide range of topics including acting, directing, lighting design, cinematography, animation, literature, artificial intelligence, neurology, biology and psychology.

Outline:

Week 1: Introduction, History of Emotion

Week 2: The Science of Emotion – an exploration of the ways psychology, biology, neurology and other disciplines have studied emotional states.

Week 3: Simulation of Emotion – dimensional, categorical and other models; emotional keyframing; affective computing; the relationship between mood, emotion and personality.

Week 4: Eliciting Emotion – methods for causing emotions to transpire in a subject or audience; recognizing emotion

Week 5: Emotion and Social Relationships – the intimate tie between social bonds and emotional associations and memories.

Week 6: Presentations of Final Project Proposals (see Week 10)

Week 7: Dramatic Stories – Emotional Arcs, Reestablishment of Social Equilibrium, writing emotions.

Week 8: Dramatic Manifestations of Emotion – Acting, Reacting.

Week 9: Dramatic Manifestations of Emotion – Staging, Lighting, Sound.

Week 10: Presentation of Final Projects – may be a written document or other project that connects the ideas discussed in the course to the broader field of drama.

Preferred Size: Any. Currently this course description is written as a graduate class but with some adjustments to the assignments and topics it could be an undergraduate class instead.