

Topics in the History of Philosophy - PHIL 5600

Carleton University, fall 2015
Thursdays, 2:35-5:25pm, Seminar Room

Professor: Annie Larivée

Office hours: Monday 11:35-12:35, Thursday 5:30-6:15pm, or by appointment

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The Stoics on Emotions

I – DESCRIPTION

Being self-controlled to the point of being impassible, insensitive, cold and emotionless is part of the portrait of the perfect 'Stoic' that remains a prominent ethical paradigm in Western culture to this day. In the seminar we will explore the *cognitive* understanding of emotions that characterised the Stoic approach. This exploration will enable us to go beyond the caricature of the hard-hearted Stoic and to challenge our own (platonic) understanding of the conflict between emotions and reason.

II – REQUIRED TEXTS

Some of the texts will be available via Ares (Carleton's online reserve system), and the three following books are available at **Haven Books** (43 Seneca Street (at Sunnyside), tel.: 613-730-9888, info@havenbooks.ca):

-Martha Nussbaum, *The Therapy of Desire*, Princeton University Press, 1994.

-Nancy Sherman, *Stoic Warriors. The Ancient Philosophy behind the Military Mind*, Oxford University Press, 2005.

-Martha Nussbaum, *Upheavals of Thought. The Intelligence of Emotions*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.

A copy of each of these books will be placed on reserve at the library.

III – OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Students are expected to attend all classes and to do the readings in advance of class meetings.

Week 1 09/03 **Introduction to the seminar**

Week 2 09/10 **Emotions in classical philosophy**

- Nussbaum, *The Therapy of Desire*, Chapter 3 "Aristotle on Emotions and Ethical Health," 78-101.

- *Optional* : A. W. Price, "Emotions in Plato and Aristotle," *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Emotion*, 121-142.

Week 3 09/17 **Martha Nussbaum, *The Therapy of Desire***

- Chapter 10 "The Stoics on the Extirpation of the Passions," 359-401.

- *Optional*: Chapter 9 "Stoic Tonics: Philosophy and the Self-Government of the Soul," 316-58.

- *Optional*: Cicero, *Tusculan Disputations* Book III ("On Grief of Mind") and IV ("On other perturbations of the mind")

Week 4 09/24 **Martha Nussbaum, *The Therapy of Desire***

- Chapter 11 "Seneca on Anger in Public Life," 402-438.

- *Optional*: Seneca, *On Anger*.

Week 5 10/01 **Martha Nussbaum, *The Therapy of Desire***

- Chapter 12 "Serpents in the Soul: A Reading of Seneca's *Medea*," 439-83.

- *Optional*: Seneca, *Medea*.

Week 6 10/08 **Nancy Sherman, *Stoic Warriors***

- Chapter 1 “A brave new Stoicism,” 1-17.
- Chapter 4 “A Warrior’s Anger,” 64-99.
- *Optional*: Nussbaum Chapter 7 “By Words, Not Arms”: Lucretius on Anger and Aggression,” 239-279.

Week 7 10/15 **Nancy Sherman, *Stoic Warriors***

- Chapter 5 “Fear and Resilience,” 100-129.
- Chapter 6, “Permission to Grieve,” 130-149.
- *Optional*: James Bond Stockdale: “Courage under Fire. Testing Epictetus's Doctrines in a Laboratory of Human Behavior”

Week 8 10/22 **The Stoics on ‘good emotions’?**

- Cooper, J.M., 2005, “The Emotional Life of the Wise,” in *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 43 (Supplement), 176–218.
- *Optional*: Seneca On the tranquility of the soul

Week 9 11/05 **Nussbaum’s Neo-Stoicism , *Upheavals of Thought. The Intelligence of Emotions***

- Chapter 1, “Emotions as judgments of value,” 19-88.

Week 10 11/12 **Nussbaum’s Neo-Stoicism , *Upheavals of Thought. The Intelligence of Emotions***

- Chapter 2, “Humans and other animals,” 89-137.

Week 11 11/19 **Nussbaum’s Neo-Stoicism , *Upheavals of Thought. The Intelligence of Emotions***

- Chapter 3, “Emotions and human societies,” 139-173.

Week 12 11/26 **Nussbaum’s Neo-Stoicism , *Upheavals of Thought. The Intelligence of Emotions***

- Chapter 4, “Emotions and infancy,” 174-237.

(Week 13 12/03 *Make-up class if needed –will be otherwise cancelled*)

IV – COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- 1. Discussion facilitation).....: 20%
- 2. Discussion Prep. Sheets + Diary.....: 40%
- 3. Final seminar report (or essay).....: 20%
- 4. Attendance and class participation.....: 20%

1. Discussion facilitation:

Each student will be in charge of the discussion for one of our weekly meetings. In order to give a structure to our discussion, please follow these guidelines:

- a) Present two problems you were confronted with while reading the text(s) either because some ideas were unclear or because you found them disputable. *Favor problems that are conducive to discussion!*
- b) Present one idea that was of special interest *to you* and explain why you found it especially stimulating.

Please provide each member of the seminar with a copy of your Discussion Outline so that we can examine it together and discuss it critically. **ONE PAGE MAXIMUM!**

2. Discussion Preparation sheets + Diary: ONE PAGE MAXIMUM!!!

In order to prepare for our weekly meeting, each of you is asked to write a *Discussion Preparation Sheet* on the text(s) to be discussed that day. You will hand in this sheet at the end of the class and I will give it back to you at the beginning of next class. *Please keep all of them so as to hand them all back to me at the end of the semester.*

Part 1 – Discussion preparation: This part shall include the same items listed above. You can, however, limit yourself to one problem and one idea of special interest, or, if you prefer, two problems.

Part 2 – Diary: You are free to write whatever you want in this part (as long as it relates to the readings, our current discussion theme, or our past discussions somehow). If a text had a powerful effect on you, you may share your impressions, if the text reminded you of a concrete situation you witnessed or experienced, you can mention it, you may also try to make sense of your concrete/personal experience with emotions by using some of the ideas present in the text(s), or you may offer a philosophical critique of an idea or argument, etc.

3. Seminar Final Report:

The seminar report (8-12 pages maximum) is due on Dec. 3rd.

At the beginning of the semester, identify one specific question that you have (or a problem that you face) concerning emotions and submit it to me in written form (one ten lines paragraph minimum—one page maximum). In your final report, explain how the texts we have worked on over the semester contributed to answer that question, modify it, or make your position toward your initial question more complex.

Note: you do not have to discuss all texts and may focus on the one(s) that seem the more relevant in light of your question.

4. Attendance and class participation:

In order for this kind of seminar to work, it is important that everyone reads the texts assigned before our weekly meeting and actively takes part in discussions. Hence the 20% devoted to attendance and class participation.

Bibliography

Primary sources

Aristotle. 2002. *Nicomachean Ethics*, Transl. intro. and commentary by Ch. Rowe and S. Broadie, Oxford University Press, 2002.

Cicero. 1945. *Tusculan Disputations*, transl. J.E. King, Loeb Classical Library, Harvard U. Press, (1927).

Epictetus. 1995. *The Discourses of Epictetus: The Handbook, Fragments*, Ch. Gill (ed.) with translation by R. Hard, London.

Marcus Aurelius. 2003. *Meditations*, trans. G. Hays, Modern Library, New York.

Seneca. 1928. *On Anger, Moral Essays vol. 3*, transl. J. W. Basore, Loeb Classical Library, Harvard U. Press.

Seneca. 2006. *On Tranquility of Mind, Moral Essays vol. 2*, trans. J. W. Basore, Loeb Classical Library, Harvard U. Press, 1932.

Secondary literature

Cooper, J.M. 2005. 'The Emotional Life of the Wise,' in *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 43 (Supplement): 176–218.

Gill, Ch. 2009. "Stoicism and Epicureanism," *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Emotion*, Edited by Peter Goldie, Oxford University Press, 143-66.

Graver, Margaret R. 2009. *Stoicism and Emotion*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press.

Nussbaum, Martha. 1994. *The Therapy of Desire. Theory and Practice in Hellenistic Ethics*, Princeton University Press.

Nussbaum, Martha. 2001. *Upheavals of Thought. The Intelligence of Emotions*, Cambridge University Press.

Price, A. W. 2009. "Emotions in Plato and Aristotle," *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Emotion*, Edited by Peter Goldie, Oxford University Press, 121-42.

Sherman, Nancy. 2005. *Stoic Warriors: The Ancient Philosophy Behind the Military Mind*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sorabji, Richard. 2000. *Emotions and Peace of Mind. From Stoic Agitation to Christian Temptation*, Oxford University Press.

James Bond Stockdale: "Courage under Fire. Testing Epictetus's Doctrines in a Laboratory of Human Behavior," Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford University, 1993.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure

accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735