SOCI 2820B: Sociology of Emotions

Instructor	Mehrnaz Golestaneh
Term	Summer 2024
Course Delivery	In-Person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Do you believe in the chemistry of love at first sight? Do you wonder how participants at a funeral are encouraged to raise a glass and cheerfully talk about a departed mother or partner? Do you question how a person who has committed domestic violence several times can manage to smile and act politely after rejection in a job interview? Do you remember the kids in school who were made fun of for wearing off-brand clothes and shoes and wonder why? This course will shed light on the social aspects of these examples.
We usually think about feelings as deeply personal and private experiences. However, this course is an invitation to think critically about social aspects of emotions in terms of gender, socio-economic class and race in teaching, shaping, regulating, controlling, and distributing emotions in the population. Together we will unpack how emotions produce effects on different aspects of social life. This course, instead of relying on the biological and psychological accounts of emotions that dominate this field of study, will emphasize how society and social life influence feelings such as love, shame, sadness, and happiness. Also, it explains how emotions influence society.

These are some of the key questions that will be explored.

EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Midterm: 20%

Problem-Based Learning I: 10%

Problem-Based Learning II: 10%

Presentation: 10%

Final Assignment: 30%

TEXT

Stets, J., Turner, J. (2014). Handbook of the Sociology of Emotions: Volume II. Handbooks of Sociology and Social Research. Springer, Dordrecht. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-017-9130-4_1

Harris, S. R. (2015). An Invitation to the Sociology of Emotions. Routledge.