



MCO 4073 **EMOTIONAL OUTLAWS**

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How have thought and reason come to be identified with the masculine, Western subject? How have emotions, nature, and the body come to be associated with feminine and racial 'others'? This course disturbs these stereotypes by applying theories of affect and emotion to various media texts. We will examine news and social media depictions of the #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo movements, as well as TV shows and films that represent gender- and race-based stereotypes.

During the first half of the semester, students will be introduced to critical race and anti-racist feminist theories, as well as feminist theories of affect & emotion. Concurrently, students will begin drafting research questions on course topics that interest them. Students will show their engagement with, and understanding of, course texts by annotating several readings on Perusall.com and by writing critical responses to key readings and viewings. The critical responses in particular are meant to help students work through their understanding of the course materials and prepare them for their final project. Students will continue drafting research questions and submitting annotated bibliography entries for scholarly secondary sources they plan to use in their final project, all as they continue to learn about these interdisciplinary fields of inquiry.

By mid-semester, students will devote all of their in-class and homework time to small research and writing steps that will lead to their final project: the production of an original scholarly video essay that draws from affect theory to analyze a media text or texts, e.g. a film, TV episode, music video, or social media posts. To prepare for this project, students will continue revising and narrowing their research questions and annotated bibliography entries with the help of peer and instructor feedback. They will also submit a project proposal to the instructor for feedback. Finally, students will have the opportunity to discuss with the instructor various venues to which they could submit their video essay for LTU community, popular, or scholarly publication.

Research questions that we will consider in this course include:

- How have feminist and anti-racist activists, scholars, and media creators dismantled stereotypes and/or appropriated them for their own means?
- How have media representations maintained the status quo in regards to gender, race, class, and intersectional stereotypes, and how have media *subverted* these stereotypes?
- How has the landscape of social media changed the ways we think about emotion and political thought?
- Is it in our best interest, as Sara Ahmed claims, to “contest this understanding of emotion as ‘the unthought’, just as we need to contest the assumption that ‘rational thought’ is unemotional” (*Cultural Politics of Emotion*, 170)?
- Does reason always play a part in emotion and vice versa?
- What is *productive* anger?
- Most importantly: *the research questions YOU produce!*