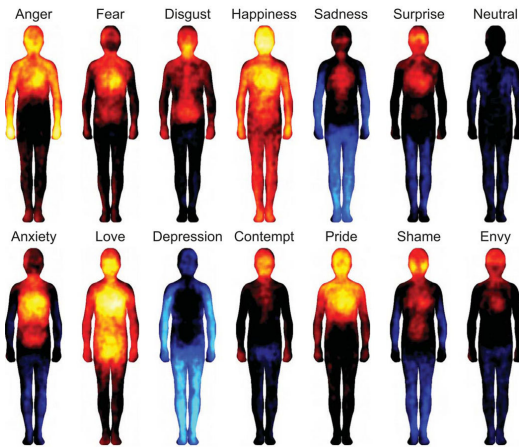


# SE Philosophy of Emotions

Spring 2024, Universität Wien



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<b>Course No.</b>	180119-1 SE
<b>Time</b>	Thursday, 11:30am–1:00pm
<b>Place</b>	Hörsaal 2H, NIG Universitätsstraße 7
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://moodle.univie.ac.at/">https://moodle.univie.ac.at/</a>
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Dirk Kindermann
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:dirk.kindermann@univie.ac.at">dirk.kindermann@univie.ac.at</a>
<b>Phone</b>	01 4277-46472
<b>Office</b>	NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, room C0220
<b>Office Hours</b>	By appointment

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## Course Description

This course is an introduction to contemporary philosophy of emotions in the Anglo-American-Australasian, “analytic” tradition. Investigating the emotions is exciting in many ways. On the one hand, emotions are a vital part of our conscious lives, they motivate our actions and protect us from dangers. On the other hand, they present formidable philosophical questions from a broad range of subdisciplines: Philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics – and beyond: In the seminar, we will also look at results from psychology, cognitive science, and neuroscience. Our focus, however, will be on philosophical questions such as the following: What are emotions? What are the main theories of emotion – historically and systematically? Which emotions are there – are we culturally influenced in which emotions we feel and how we conceptualise them? Are emotions social constructs? What are the functions of emotions? What is the connection between emotions and bodily sensations? Are emotion and cognition opposites? What is the relation between emotion and motivation? Are emotions rational, irrational, or arational? What are the ethical implications of emotions?

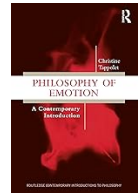
## Course Goals

By the end of the course, you should

- have gained an understanding of the most important theories of emotion
- be able to critically compare and evaluate these theories strengths and weaknesses
- be able to take a stance on standard issues in the philosophy of emotion
- have gained an understanding of the relationship between philosophy of emotion and research results on emotions in psychology, cognitive science and neuroscience
- have gained an understanding of current issues in the philosophy of emotion research.

## Readings

Our main reading will be [Christine Tappolet \(2023\). \*Philosophy of Emotion. A Contemporary Introduction\*. New York and London: Routledge](#). You can find an electronic version of the book on usearch and/or you can buy a paperback edition, which costs around 44€.



## Prerequisites

There are no official prerequisites for this course. However, knowledge of philosophy of mind will be a great advantage.

## Attendance

Attendance is obligatory. You may miss up to two (2) sessions without sanctions. I strongly advise you not to miss sessions. Our material is challenging, we are proceeding fast, each session builds on the previous ones, and it's easy to lose track if you skip material. If you end up missing more than two sessions, I will ask you to submit written work in order for you to successfully complete the course: **summary and evaluation of the missed session's main reading of 800–1000 words**.

## Course Schedule

We may choose to make revisions to the schedule as the semester is progressing. Check the [Moodle course website](#) regularly for up-to-date versions of the syllabus.

Introduction		
1   14/3//2024	Introduction	Optional: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: „Emotion“, ( <a href="#">link</a> )
Part 1: Tappolet (2023). <i>Philosophy of Emotion. A Contemporary Introduction</i>		
2   21/3/2024	The Philosophy of Emotions The Affective Domain	❶ Tappolet (2023), chapter 1 ❷ Tappolet (2023), chapter 2
Easter break		
3   11/4/2024	Are Emotions Social Constructs?	❶ Tappolet (2023), chapter 3
4   18/4/2024	Feeling Theories	❶ Tappolet (2023), chapter 4

5   25/4/2024	Motivational Theories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❶ <a href="#">Tappolet (2023)</a>, chapter 5</li> <li>❷ Optional: <a href="#">Kurth (2022)</a>, section 2.4)</li> </ul>
6   2/5/2024	Evaluative Theories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❶ <a href="#">Tappolet (2023)</a>, chapter 6</li> <li>❷ Optional: <a href="#">Todd (2014)</a></li> </ul>
7   <b>8/5/2024</b> <b>9:45–11:15am</b> <b>Hs 3C</b>	Emotions and Theoretical Rationality Emotions and Practical Rationality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❶ <a href="#">Tappolet (2023)</a>, chapter 7</li> <li>❷ <a href="#">Tappolet (2023)</a>, chapter 8</li> </ul>
8   16/5/2024	Ethics and the Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❶ <a href="#">Tappolet (2023)</a>, chapter 10</li> <li>❷ Optional: <a href="#">Kurth (2022)</a>, chapter 8)</li> </ul>

Part 2: Current Research in Philosophy of Emotion		
9   23/5/2024	How to write an academic book review in philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❶ <a href="#">Blog: „How to write a philosophy book review“</a> (Link s. Fn. 1)</li> <li>❷ <a href="#">University of Nottingham: „Book reviews“</a> (Link s. Fn. 1)</li> </ul>
10   6/6/2024	Presentations of research articles	—
11   20/6/2024	Presentations of research articles	—
12   27/6/2024	Feedback-discussion on book review drafts	❶ Read book review drafts of 3 peers in your group

### Important Deadlines

27/5/2024	Submission deadline for proposal of 2 research articles (email)
29/5/2024	Submission deadline for book review proposal (email)
20/6/2024	Submission deadline for book review draft (Moodle upload in group)
4/7/2024	Submission deadline for final version of book review (Moodle upload)
Evening before your presentation	Upload handout on Moodle and email it to me

### Assessment

#### 1. Short presentation (25%)

You are each required to give a **short presentation of 10 minutes** in class, in a group of 3–4 students per session. Please prepare, write, and deliver the presentation *together as a group* (see ‘Team work’ below). The presentations are meant to provide a **short and succinct** summary and evaluation of

the most important **theses and arguments** in the core reading(s) of the session. A **short handout** (1-2 pages) is obligatory and will also be assessed. You need to send me your handout by email **the evening before class** at the latest as well as upload it to Moodle. I also encourage you to come talk to me during office hours one week before your presentation.

## 2. Presentation of two research publications (25%)

In groups of 2, you will together **choose 2 research articles** (from the last 20 years) from different authors on the same topic. You need to email me your choice **by 27 May 2024** and once you have my OK, state your choice in the Moodle forum “Choice of Research Articles” (first come, first served). You will together present these publications in a 10-minute session: **5 minutes for your presentation, 5 minutes for Q&A**. In addition, you need to bring a **handout of 1–2 pages** and upload it to Moodle. In your 5-min presentation, you should **introduce the common topic** and for each publication, **state their research question(s) and main thesis/theses as well as give a rough idea of their arguments**. Our goal is to learn about interesting current research in the philosophy of emotion. (So, what is interesting about your chosen topic & articles?)

Good places to start with your research are:

- <https://philpapers.org/browse/emotions>
- <https://scholar.google.at>
- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: “Emotion” <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/emotion/>
- Philosophy Compass: <https://compass.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17479991>
- Oxford Bibliographies: [oxfordbibliographies.com](https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com)

## 3. Book Review (50%)

You need to write an academic book review. You are free to choose a research-oriented book in/on the philosophy or psychology of emotion, but you need to declare your choice by email **by 29 May 2024** and get my OK. You will send a draft of your review to your group of four students **by 20 June 2024** (upload it in the Moodle group). On 27 June 2024, we will have a session with group discussions on each others’ drafts (15 minutes each) to get feedback. The **final submission deadline** for your book review is **4 July 2024**. Here are some requirements for the book review.

- The review must begin with a brief paragraph or two giving an overall characterization of the book, of its intellectual context, and of its basic structure.
- The review must provide a summary of the main theses and arguments in the book (you can be selective if necessary).
- The review must offer an evaluation of at least two key philosophical aspects of the book. Reasons need to be given for any evaluations, particularly negative ones. This is a major part of your review. You’re engaging with the philosophical content at (near) eye level.
- The review must be **1800–2000 words**.
- The review must include a bibliography of sources cited or used (if any).

We will have a session on how to write a book review in philosophy. You can find some advice here<sup>1</sup> and models of philosophical book reviews here: [Notre Dame Philosophical Review](#), [The Philosophical Review](#)

Guidelines for good philosophical writing apply to book reviews, too:

- (a) Essay Writing in Philosophy (Kindermann, on Moodle)

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<sup>1</sup><https://philosophyofbrains.com/2022/01/31/how-to-write-a-philosophy-book-review.aspx>, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340375651\\_Teaching\\_Philosophy\\_in\\_Review\\_Best\\_Practices\\_for\\_Mentoring\\_Graduate\\_Student\\_Book\\_Reviewers](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340375651_Teaching_Philosophy_in_Review_Best_Practices_for_Mentoring_Graduate_Student_Book_Reviewers), <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/Academic%20Book%20Reviews.V2.pdf>, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively/writing/writingtasks/bookreviews.aspx>

- (b) Jim Pryor’s Advice on essay writing in philosophy:  
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>
- (c) University of Notre Dame Guidelines for Philosophical Writing (ons Moodle)

## How to prepare for this course

- **Reading:** You will spend a lot of time reading in this course. There is a reading assignment for each lecture meeting—typically a paper from the Perry et al. anthology (readings not in this anthology are marked “\*” below). Many of these papers are cornerstones of the philosophical tradition. While they may be short, they are very challenging: expect to read them at least two or three times. In philosophy, you need to “**read aggressively**” (see Perry et al., pp. 2–4): Read closely, analyse, question, reconstruct, take notes, continue ...If you have trouble understanding what an author says, or any other question concerning the course, you can always **consult me or your tutor for advice**.
- Always do the reading(s) *before* class. Don’t miss any readings – it will be hard to catch up.
- **Ask questions** in class: If a point is unclear to you, chances are your classmates will appreciate additional clarification, too. Don’t be shy to ask questions in class!
- **Team work:** You will find it helpful to **team up** with fellow students to **explain concepts, arguments, and technical material to each other** and to **critically discuss** them. What you invest in helping others will come back doubly when you solve the exercises and when you find yourself in the exam: You haven’t understood a concept or argument unless you can express it clearly and precisely. Note the limits to team work under **Academic Integrity**.

## Use of AI

If generative AI (like ChatGPT) is used in any step of the (writing) process, then you must add a footnote or appendix to your essay with a detailed explanation of how the technology was used:

1. Which AI tool you used,
2. which prompts you used,
3. to which purpose and in which step of your (writing) process you used the generated answers.

Be careful: AI-generated results are not sources, they are not cited; their use is declared. Undeclared use of the technology is not permitted and is considered academic misconduct. Use of such technology can and must not replace your understanding and well thought-through argumentative engagement. We reserve the right to request of all students that they come to an oral examination on their written work, in which they need to explain and defend individual sections of their text.

Helpful advice on using AI in your studies:

- <https://blog.univie.ac.at/studium/ok-mit-ki/>
- [Von Null auf ChatGPT - Anleitung](#) (Uni Hohenheim)
- [ChatGPT im Studium](#) (Uni Mannheim)
- [Assigning AI: Seven Approaches for Students, with Prompts](#)
- [We Need to Talk, AI. A Comic Essay on Artificial Intelligence](#)

## Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Don't plagiarise. It's that simple. Plagiarism is an infringement of intellectual copyright and a serious offence, and is not taken lightly by the university. It is easy to avoid it: whenever you help yourself to the ideas of others, make their authorship explicit by **referencing** them. In addition, use **quotation marks** when you cite them word for word. When in doubt, always reference the source you're using: better a reference too much than too little.

## RESOURCES

### Alternative contemporary introductions to the philosophy of emotion

- [Demmerling & Landweer \(2007\)](#)
- [Deonna \(2012\)](#)
- [Kurth \(2022\)](#)
- [Price \(2015\)](#)

### Handbooks & further aspects of philosophy of emotion

- [Barrett et al. \(2005\)](#) (psychology)
- [Barrett et al. \(2016\)](#) (psychology)
- [Gebauer et al. \(2017\)](#)
- [Goldie \(2010\)](#)
- [Hatzimoysis \(2009\)](#)
- [Leighton \(2003\)](#)
- [Reevy et al. \(2010\)](#) (psychology)
- [Scarantino \(2024\)](#)
- ☞ [Solomon \(2003\)](#): *What is an Emotion? Classic and Contemporary Readings*
- [Solomon \(2006\)](#)
- [Szanto & Landweer \(2020\)](#)

### Some Online Philosophy Resources

- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu>
- The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy (access via usearch): [www.rep.routledge.com](http://www.rep.routledge.com)
- Philosophy Compass: <https://compass.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17479991>
- The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: [www.iep.utm.edu](http://www.iep.utm.edu)
- Academic search machine: <http://scholar.google.at>
- PhilPapers (online directory of articles and books): <http://philpapers.org>
- Guidelines on writing a philosophy paper by Jim Pryor:  
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>
- Jim Pryor's very useful advice on how to read philosophy papers:  
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>

## References

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- Hatzimoysis, A. (Ed.). (2009). *Philosophy and the Emotions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Szanto, T. & Landweer, H. (Eds.). (2020). *The Routledge Handbook of Phenomenology of Emotion*. Routledge.
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- Todd, C. (2014). Emotion and value. *Philosophy Compass*, 9(10), 702–12.