When two disciplines, one interested in understanding social cognition, the other in understanding the brain meet, a topic of obvious mutual interest is the study of emotion. Both neuroscientists and psychologists have learned on their own about the neural basis of emotion and its expressions in social life. In this course, two instructors whose primary expertise is in social cognition, will teach about social and neuroscience perspectives on emotion, with a focus on recent advances. The first part of the course will focus on theoretical perspectives that address the neurobiology and neuropsychology of emotion. The second part will require attention to specific emotions such as fear, anger, and disgust – emotions whose neural basis is best understood. The third section will explore the interaction of emotion with memory and the fourth will delve into the newly growing area of emotion and social relations. Finally, in section 5, we take up issues concerning attitude and beliefs as examined in the minds and brains of individuals as they construe themselves and others as members of social groups.

Requirements.

1. Students will be expected to lead at least one of the class sessions, most likely with other students, depending on the size of the class. This will count for 20% of the final grade.

2. The day before each class session, students will be expected to turn in a thoughtful discussion question that draws on the readings. Of course, the questions should be relevant to the topic. Attempts to integrate social and neuroscience perspectives on the issue are particularly important. The questions should be forwarded to the discussion leaders and instructors no later than 5 pm on Tuesday. Discussion questions will be graded and will count for 30% of the final grade.

3. Participation in class on a weekly basis is expected and will account for 20% of the grade.

3. A 20-25 page research proposal, written in APA style, is expected at the end of the semester. This paper will count for 30% of the final grade.

PART I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

WEEK 1: Social Psychology and Neuroscience


WEEK 2: Affect and Neuroscience


WEEK 3: Neural Representation of Emotions
PART 2: SPECIFIC EMOTIONS

WEEK 4: Fear and Anger


WEEK 5: Disgust


Part 3: MEMORY AND EMOTION

WEEK 6: Working Memory


WEEK 7: Encoding and Source memory


Part 4: EMOTION AND SOCIAL RELATIONS

WEEK 8: Perceiving Others’ Emotions


**WEEK 9: Implicit Emotion and Volition**


**Part 5: ATTITUDE (EVALUATION) AND STEREOTYPES**

**WEEK 10: Attitudes**


**WEK 11: Ingroups and Outgroups**


Differential response in the human amygdala to racial outgroup vs ingroup face stimuli. Neuroreport, 11, 2351-2355.


WEEK 12: The Self


