This seminar is designed to introduce you to a relatively new field – the history of emotions – and to help train you in the research and writing of graduate-level research papers. We will start by reading some short primary sources, theoretical/methodological works, and case studies treating the construction, expression, representation, manipulation, and instrumentlization of human emotions in various historical periods and geographical areas. We shall be asking such questions as: How are emotions shaped by their material and cultural contexts? How can we access and learn from the emotions of people in the past? Why was a record, text, or image of emotion produced, and by whom was it read or viewed? What were its modes of circulation? Whom does it privilege and whom does it exclude? How could different groups or communities of readers alter its use and importance? What were the social, cultural, political and intellectual contexts of its production? In the process, we shall examine how historians frame a question, shape a research project, and present an argument and set of conclusions.

Required Book:


All other readings will be articles or book chapters available on-line or on the Blackboard website for the course.

Requirements consist of completing all reading assignments and participating actively in class, as well as researching and writing a research paper. In addition, each student will contribute at least one document for general analysis over the course of the term. The second half of the course will be devoted to researching, writing, and presenting working drafts of students’ research papers. The final research paper of ca. 20-30 pages will be due on Monday, Dec. 15.
Aug. 25  Introduction and Introductions
Primary Source Exercise: Formulating Questions

Sep. 1  NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Sep. 8  Introduction to the History of Emotions

Sep. 15  A Case Study in the History of Emotions
Nicole Eustace, Passion Is the Gale: Emotion, Power, and the Coming of the American Revolution (University of North Carolina Press, 2008) [Please purchase]

Sep. 22  Emotions and the Visual

Sep. 29  Embodied Emotions: Tears
(3) Linda G. Jones, “‘He Cried and Made Others Cry’: Crying as a Sign of Pietistic Authenticity or Deception in Medieval Islamic
Oct. 6  
**Emotions and Gender**

Oct. 13  
**Research Period; Individual Meetings**

Oct. 20  
**Getting Started: Paper Proposals**
Each student presents a research proposal to the class for comments and critique.

Oct. 27  
**Research Period; Individual Meetings**

Nov. 3  
**Work in Progress Reports and Brainstorming**

Nov. 10  
**Research Period; Individual Meetings**

Nov. 17  
**Research Period; Individual Meetings**

Nov. 24  
**Presentations: Work in Progress**

Dec. 1  
**Last Class: Emotional Farewell!**

*Your papers are due Monday, Dec. 15, by 5:00 p.m.*