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Title: The Aesthetics and Politics of Fear
Status: Definitive
Code: **6509BEASOC** (129206)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Beaconhouse Group

Team	Leader
David Tyrer	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 33
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 167

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Workshop	11

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	AS1	Poster Presentation	25	
Essay	AS2	3500 Word Essay	75	

Aims

1. To explore the development of approaches in philosophy and cultural and critical theory to the study of emotions, focusing in particular on fear.
2. To apply a range of contemporary theoretical approaches to case studies in fear.
3. To examine the aesthetic politics at stake in the public life of private emotions.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Clearly discuss how emotions have been approached within differing theoretical traditions.
- 2 Employ appropriate conceptual approaches to examine the politics and aesthetics at stake in a particular case study of fear.
- 3 Situate both the shifting politics and aesthetics of fear and changing approaches to affect and emotions within the humanities and social sciences within broader cultural, political and epistemic contexts.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Poster Presentation	1	
Essay	2	3

Outline Syllabus

Emotions in history from the ancients to the modern
Approaches to emotions within philosophy and the social sciences
Variiegating fear: fear and its forms
The public life of fear
The aesthetics of phobia
Case studies in phobia

Learning Activities

Three hours of lecture and workshop activity per week. Students will be expected to undertake independent learning activities prior to attending class. These will typically involve reading but might also involve watching films or reading/viewing other cultural texts.

Six hours of tutorial support spread across the module in order to make formative feedback and guidance available to students.

Notes

This module will begin by examining major philosophical and theoretical approaches to the study of emotions. Thereafter the module will examine a series of case studies in fear, focusing in particular on phobias, tracing out etymologies and genealogies of phobia, and examining the aesthetic politics of phobia in historical and epistemic contexts. This section of the syllabus will be organised alphabetically in the manner of popular psychologies of phobias. In this main part of the module, students will begin with agoraphobia, the canonical modern classification of phobia, and conclude

with xenophobia, a non-canonical phobia the coining of which is subject to a problematic and disputed historiography. Along the way students will engage with a range of other uses of phobia, including the aesthetics and gender politics of claustrophobia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; kalliphobia and the politics of beauty in twentieth century art; and logophobia and the politics of Foucault's critique of modernity and representation. Along the way students will also unpick the relationships between phobia and other modalities of fear, including horror and terror, and will also consider the relationships between phobias, humour, and the ironisation of fear.