

CL 48P.01
SP.TP.AFFECT IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE
Boğaziçi University
Spring 2026
(Provisional) Syllabus¹

Instructor: Çiğdem Buğdaycı

Class Meeting Hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:00; Friday 10:00-12:00

Classrooms: HH Z17 | TB 225 | TB 225

Office no: TB 450

Office hours: by appointment

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Course Description

This course focuses on a recent turn in literary studies: affect. It introduces the difference between emotions and affects to see how contemporary literature represents “ugly feelings” and other emotions that are difficult to articulate. Students will be introduced to basic ideas from affect theory and will use these concepts in their analysis of literary texts. Through close reading and discussion, students will consider how literature conveys mood, tone, and atmosphere, and how these invite reflection on ethical awareness and self-understanding.

Trigger Note

Some course texts contain potentially distressing themes, including emotional distress, mental health issues, sexuality, eating disorders, and psychological or physical violence. Students who have concerns about engaging with such material are advised not to enroll in the course.

Course Materials

The course packet is available at the Library Copy Shop and can also be accessed via the link (to be posted)

- ➔ All essential information, including study questions, and supplementary course materials will be posted regularly on the Moodle page for our section of the course. Please note that to access Moodle you must use your BU email address.

Class Requirements

¹ The course materials and reading list are subject to change depending on the pace of the class and instructional needs.

Attendance/Participation

→ Attendance is required. Students may miss up to 7 hours of class without penalty; beyond that absences will negatively impact the Attendance/Participation part of your grade. To be admitted to the final exam, students **must** have attended at least 75% of class hours.

→ You **must** read the assigned texts carefully and analyze them before coming to class. Your active participation is essential to maintain a productive learning environment.

Exams and Quizzes

→ You will have to ask questions for the class about the assigned text(s) for your discussant role. You don't have to give answers to them, but you will have to lead the discussion.

→ There will be three quizzes (on theoretical or reading materials). Only the two higher grades will be counted toward your final grade.

→ There will be one final exam. Students who fail to meet the attendance requirement will not be admitted to the final exam. If a student is legitimately excused from an exam, a make-up exam will be arranged.

→ The reading list or schedule may change with prior notice depending on the circumstances and our in-class pace. **Please check the Moodle course page regularly.**

Final Grade Breakdown:

Active class participation: 10 %

Discussant role: 10 %

2 Quizzes: 40 %

Final exam: 40%

Grading Scale:

AA (100-90), BA (89-85), BB (84-80), CB (79- 75), CC (74-70), DC (69-65), DD (64-60), (fail) F (59-0)

Reading Schedule

Week / Date	Content & Readings
WEEK 1 – Feb 11 / Feb 13	Introduction to the course and syllabus

	Alice Munro, "Material," in <i>Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You</i> , pp. 23 - 41 (short story)
WEEK 2 – Feb 18 / Feb 20	Sara Ahmed, Ch. 1, "The Contingency of Pain," in <i>The Cultural Politics of Emotion</i> Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>The Remains of the Day</i> (novel)
WEEK 3 – Feb 25 / Feb 27	Sara Ahmed, "Affective Economies," <i>Social Text</i> , 79 (vol. 22, No. 2), Summer 2014, pp. 117 - 139 Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>The Remains of the Day</i> (novel)
WEEK 4 – Mar 4 / Mar 6	Lauren Berlant, "Chapter 1: Cruel Optimism," in <i>Cruel Optimism</i> , pp. 23-50 Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>The Remains of the Day</i> (novel)
WEEK 5 – Mar 11 / Mar 13	Sara Ahmed, "Happy Objects," in <i>The Affect Theory Reader</i> , pp. 29 - 51 Brian Massumi, "The Autonomy of Affect," <i>Cultural Critique</i> , No. 31, Autumn, 1995, pp. 83-109
WEEK 6 – Mar 18 Mar 20	Alice Munro, "Family Furnishings," in <i>Family Furnishings</i> , pp. 168 – 191 (short story) Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage," in <i>Family Furnishings</i> , pp. 131 – 167 (short story) Ramazan Bayramı
WEEK 7 – Mar 25 / Mar 27	Ben Lerner, <i>Leaving the Atocha Station</i> (novel)

WEEK 8 – Apr 1 / Apr 3	Ben Lerner, <i>Leaving the Atocha Station</i> (novel)
WEEK 9 – Apr 8 / Apr 10	Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, “Paranoid Reading and Reparative Reading; or, You’re So Paranoid, You Probably Think This Introduction is About You,” in <i>Novel Gazing: Queer Readings in Fiction</i> , pp. 1- 38 J. Brooks Bouson, “Chapter 1: Introduction,” in <i>Embodied Shame: Uncovering Female Shame in Contemporary Women’s Writings</i>
WEEK 10 – Apr 15 / Apr 17	Sianne Ngai, “Afterword: On Disgust,” <i>Ugly Feelings</i> , pp. 332 - 354 Han Kang, <i>The Vegetarian</i> (novel)
WEEK 11 – Apr 22 / Apr 24	Spring Break
WEEK 12 – Apr 29 May 1	Han Kang, <i>The Vegetarian</i> (novel) Labor Day
WEEK 13 – May 6 / May 8	Han Kang, <i>The Vegetarian</i> (novel)
WEEK 14 – May 13 / May 15	Overall review and exam preparation