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9.68 Affect: Biological, Psychological, and Social Aspects of "Feelings"
Spring 2009

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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences

9.68 – Spring 2009

Affect: Neurobiological, Psychological and Sociocultural counterparts of “feelings.”

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CLASS ROSTER & CONFIRMATION OF ENROLLMENT FORM

1. Name: _____
2. Present Address: (or name of MIT living group): _____

3. Member, MIT Class of 200__
4. Major Course (and/or Degree Program): _____
5. MIT ID#: _____
6. Local Telephone number: _____
7. E-Mail address (in full :) _____

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM AND BENCHMARK QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Each of us arrives at this point on a personal and social trajectory. Who are we? Where do we come from? Where are we going? Where were you born and brought up? Please include geographical, cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic particulars, as appropriate:

2. What is your "native tongue"? _____
If not English, how well do you still read/speak understand it? _____
How well/poorly do you understand, speak, write, read, English? _____
3. What other language(s) do you speak/write/read? How fluently? _____
4. Each of us comes into a new yet familiar situation like this one with attitudes and expectations shaped by our own backgrounds and experiences. We vary in multifarious mental and behavioral particulars (e.g. knowledge and skills, advantages and handicaps, talents and limitations). How are you approaching it? What are you bringing with you? Do you have any "default assumptions" about what this class will be like? Any particular hopes and fears? Poised, as you are, at the point of entry into a semester-long inquiry into the subject of "affect," what are some of your assumptions about the form or content of this class and its relevance to you?

5. What are you hoping and expecting to get out of 9.68/09 (gradewise and otherwise)? Please be as specific and as detailed as possible. For example, what do you presently anticipate (fear? hope ?) will be forthcoming from the instructors? From your fellow students? From yourself? _____

6. In the light of what you have just before written (at 5), what are your own present academic intentions and learning goals for yourself in this class this term? (e.g. What are you planning to put into it timewise, attitudewise, effortwise, and otherwise)? _____

7. It is axiomatic that the default assumptions we bring with us into social situations can powerfully influence the outcomes. (For better or worse.) For this reason, it is always useful to know where our more influential default assumptions come from. This naturally draws attention to the idea that many of our present attitudes (thoughts and feelings) have been strongly shaped (for better or worse) by the beliefs, values and practices prevailing in our families of origin. Describe the worldviews, value systems and lifestyles prevailing in your nuclear and extended families/communities of origin. Refer as appropriate to the influence of particular parents (grandparents?) siblings, peers, mentors, teachers, or friends. Note the significance (if any) of "communities of faith" to which you belong (e.g. prayer groups, temples, churches, mosques, etc). Describe their influence upon you (for better/worse and compare and contrast with your own present attitudes and actions.

8. What are some things about yourself that you have not yet mentioned and which relate to your approach to this class/subject? _____

9. Do you as yet have any clearly-defined long term personal/social (incl. academic/professional) goals? (i.e. do you know "what you want to be or do when you grow up?") _____

10. What do you already know? Some of the following terms should be familiar. Others not. Briefly define:
- a. affect _____

 - b. quality _____

 - c. limbic system _____

 - d. complementarity _____

 - e. consensual validation/disconfirmation _____

 - f. uncertainty _____

 - g. bilateral stereotaxic amygdalotomy _____

 - h. episodic dyscontrol syndrome _____

 - i. human nature: _____

 - j. paradigm(s) _____

k. classical (beliefs, values, practices) _____

l. romantic (beliefs, values, practices) _____

m. science: _____

n. fundamentalism(s) _____

o. sustainability _____

p. terrorism: _____

q. violence: _____

r. values _____

s. ethics _____

t. morals/morality _____

Add any queries, comments, criticisms you wish: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete and return this questionnaire.