This is a reading seminar on theories of affect.

We will head toward Deleuze and read some of his works. For Deleuze, affect is force or 1) the capacity to affect and to be affected and 2) a vital point of emergence where the actual meets the potential. Culture, taken from the point of view of affect, is not structures and determinations but intensities, impacts, routes of circulation, assemblages, articulations. Its outlines have to be seen not as boundaries around a unity but as trajectories of potentiality and lines of flight. Binary oppositions and contradictions become resonating relations (of inside/outside, action/reaction, quiescence and arousal …).

This semester we will begin with other work on emotion, structures of feeling and affect and applications to studies of politics, the body, the senses, aesthetics, ethnicity, globalization, gender…..

There will be a subsequent course in the spring devoted entirely to Deleuze.

Books

Session 1
Monday, September 12
excerpts from novels: The Known World by Edward Jones, That Old Ace in the Hole by Annie Proulx, Atonement by Ian McEwen

Session 2
Monday, September 19
Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. "Paranoid Reading and Reparative Reading; or, You're So Paranoid, You Probably Think This Introduction Is About You." In Novel Gazing: Queer Readings in Fiction, edited by Eve


Session 3
Monday, September 26


Session 4
Monday, October 3

Session 5
Monday, October 10


Session 6
Monday, October 17


Session 7
Monday, October 24
Session 8
Monday, October 31

Session 9
Monday, November 7
Jameson, Frederick. "Reification and Utopia in Mass Culture." Social Text 1, no. 7 (1975).

Session 10
Monday, November 14

Session 11
Monday, November 21

Session 12
Monday, November 28
Grossberg, Lawrence. We Gotta Get out of This Place: Popular Conservatism and Postmodern Culture. New York: Routledge, 1992. (pp. 1-127)

Session 13
Monday, December 5