For decades scholars in the theoretical humanities have been working toward an understanding of "affect," and more recently scholars in the rhetorical studies have also joined the so-called affective turn. If the growing number of essays, books, and talks are any indication, affect is now a well-established scholarly "object." This is not to say, however, that we have settled the question of what affect is (an object?), what it does, and why it matters to a field like rhetorical studies. We have yet to fully grasp how a discipline rooted in words can make sense of what Kathleen Stewart calls affect's worlding: "A scratching on the surface of rhythms, sensory habits, gathering materialities, intervals, and durations."

The seminar is a broad survey and disciplinary history of the study of affect in the humanities that will better enable participants to pursue and contextualize their own research, including the practical challenge of pursuing scholarship that breaks from more traditional, "rationalist" norms of writing. Consequently, the seminar is introductory in character and does not aim to advance any particular approach, concept, or viewpoint. Participants may be new to the literature on affect, or they may simply wish to deepen their ongoing engagement with these complex materials. The seminar will be organized around four impasses, or broad discussion areas, each focused on one or two framing questions: What is the "subject" and "object" of affect? Should we rethink the affect/emotion binary? What is the history of disciplinary engagements—or disengagements—of affect in rhetorical studies? How can we research and write (about) affect differently?

We will organize this seminar around these four conceptual impasses. On the first day we will examine the early investigation of affect in psychoanalysis and psychology, reckoning with the subject/object binary that guides and constrains that research. On the second day we will examine immanentist approaches to affect, primarily those in the orbit of Deleuze's work, and the scholarship of the "public feelings" group. On the third day, we will survey the ways in
which an interest in affect emerges in both the speech and composition rhetorical traditions. On the final half-day, we will confront the challenge of doing scholarship on/about affect and the scholarly norms that guide and constrain such work.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**Day One (May 22): Introduction & Psychobabble**

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. *Introduction* (Jenny and Josh)

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. *Break*

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. *Introduction of Participants and Discussion of Interests* (Everybunny)

12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. *Lunch*

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.: *Affect and Psychoanalysis* (Josh)

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. *Break*

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. *Discussion & Formation of Break-out Groups*

**READINGS FOR THE DAY:**


**Day Two (May 23): Deleuze & Friends / Feelings in Public(s)**

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. *Delousing Deleuze* (Jenny)

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. *Break*

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. *Screening: The True Meaning of Pictures* (dir. Shelby Lee Adams, 2004)

12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. *Lunch*

2:00 p.m – 3:15 p.m. *Feelings in Public(s)* (Josh and Jenny)

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. *Break*

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. *Discussion*
READINGS FOR THE DAY:


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**Day Three (May 24): Disciplining Affects**

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  *Affect and "Speech"* (Josh)

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  *Break*.

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.  *Affect and Composition* (Jenny)

12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.  *Lunch*

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.  *Discussion of "Affect in the Field"*

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  *Break*

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  *Activity: Creation of Map of "Affect in Rhetorical Studies"*

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**READINGS FOR THE DAY:**


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**Day Four (May 25): Writing Affectively and New Scholarly Modalities**

9-ish  *(Tentative) Breakfasting Noshness*

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  *Publishing Norms and Stretching Possibilities* (Jenny and Josh)  
*Research Agenda Discussion and Challenge*

12:00  *Lunch & Keynote Address by Eric King Watts*