What are emotions and how do we measure them?

Most of these issues are addressed either in Ch 1 or the Shaver et al. reading. The ones that aren’t will be discussed in class.

From chapter and lecture
1. When emotion researchers try to define emotions, what components are typically included as part of an emotion?
2. What are the 4 major traditions in emotion research, and what are the key ideas and implications of each?
3. What is the difference between affect, mood, emotion, personality, etc?
4. What are the major ways that emotions have been measured, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

Shaver, Schwartz, Kirson, & O'Connor: Note that this paper contains some sophisticated statistical techniques that are probably new to you. You don’t need to worry about the details of the statistics, but try to understand what is being done conceptually (e.g., how did they come to create figure 1?).

Also, you don’t need to know the material in the “Hierarchy, circumplex, or three-dimensional space?” section (pp. 38-40).

5. What are the general ideas of prototype theory?
   a. What are the characteristics of superordinate, basic, and subordinate categories?
   b. What does it mean to say these are “fuzzy sets?”
6. Why do Shaver et al. think that a prototype analysis of emotion will provide information about the actual nature of human emotion?
7. What is the reason Shaver et al. give for why it is difficult to define emotion?
8. How did they come up with the emotion terms they used in study 1?
9. In study 1, how do they create the structure in figure 1?
10. What 3 criteria are they using to determine the basic level of emotion?
    a. What do they end up considering basic?
    b. Is it reasonable to consider surprise a basic emotion?
11. What was done in study 2? How were the responses coded?
12. What do the resulting prototypes tell us about basic emotions?
13. What is Shaver et al.’s dynamic model of the emotion process, and how is it based on the results of these studies?