

PSYC 2707EL 03 -- Motivation -- Course Outline -- 2007

PSYC 2707 Sec EL03
Winter, 2007
T, Th 11:30-1:00
C-204

Instructor: Dr. Robert C. Sinclair
Office: A361
Office Hours: T, Th 10:00-11:00 am
and by appointment
Phone: 675-1151 ext. 4250

TA: Stephanie Ouellette
Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA
and by appointment
Phone: TBA

Prerequisite: PSYC 1105 or equivalent.

Text

Franken, R. E. (2006). *Human motivation* (6th ed.). Wadsworth / Thomson Learning: Belmont, CA.

There may be some additional readings on reserve in the library.

Goals

The course is designed to introduce you to the study of human motivation. A survey of the major theoretical and empirical approaches to human motivation will be covered. We will discuss research to a great degree and cover topics like the effects of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation on liking for tasks, other people, etc., biological underpinnings of motivated behavior, arousal and performance, states of consciousness, eating behavior, sexual behavior, emotions, stress, drug use, aggression, obedience, and compliance, depression, achievement, work motivation, and the like. The course will focus on theory and research with some consideration of applied implications. However, if you're looking for a course to show you how to win friends and influence people, this is probably not the course for you.. It is hoped that you 1) gain an understanding of how psychologists conduct research; 2) increase your awareness of how our selves and our acts depend upon, and fit into, psychological processes; 3) gain some sense of how psychological theory and research methods can be applied; 4) become prepared for more advanced psychology courses; and, 5) gain the ability to evaluate real-world claims like those presented in the media (e.g., Does breast feeding increase IQ? Does an increase in water temperature cause shark attacks? Does playing bridge maintain cognitive ability?).

The course will be taught primarily in a lecture format, with some discussion. From time to time, you will have an in-class demonstration, lab, or film. **NOTE:** If you have questions during class about the material, you're probably not alone--don't be embarrassed--ask! **HOPEFULLY, THE CLASS WILL BE FUN.**

Grading

You are responsible for all material in your reading assignments, films, labs, demonstrations, as well as from lectures. Readings and lectures will not necessarily cover the same material. There will be 2 tests (35 points each). The tests will assess factual knowledge and the ability to apply and integrate concepts. These will be in a multiple-choice format and are noncomprehensive (i.e., noncumulative). I try hard to avoid trick questions. Some of the test questions that I write are longer than the typical multiple-choice question. These require careful reading, and a few of them may actually require that you think rather than spit back something you read or you were told. There will be between 50 and 100 questions on each test. If you miss a test without a proper excuse (i.e., a doctor's certificate), you will receive a grade of 0 for the test (I expect you to contact me via e-mail or phone on the day of a missed test – the doctor's certificate can follow within a one week period). In addition to the tests, I **may**, on occasion, assign smaller graded assignments (sometimes these are a surprise; if

you are not in class when an assignment is given, you may receive 0 for the assignment [depending on its nature]). The point values of these assignments will be announced in class, but will not total more than 5 points (which are part of a 5 point slush fund). Finally, there will be a research proposal worth 30 points. The paper will be written in APA style and will not be longer than 15 pages. The research proposal must involve the design of a novel experiment in the area of human motivation (broadly defined) that, if conducted, could make a contribution to science.

ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED, DOUBLE SPACED.

Always, always, always make copies of assignments! I'm not infallible (nor is my TA) and sometimes lose things. The burden, unfortunately, is on you--I expect you to have copies if this happens.

Extensions will be granted only under exceptional circumstances (remember that most of you have only two grandmothers). These circumstances are ones that are beyond the students' control like illness or a death in the family (too much work, another paper due that day, "I want to go to New York with my friends" [so do I], etc. don't count). Requests for extensions must be made in advance. Assignments turned in late (without an extension) will be penalized one point per day (up to 1/2 the worth of the assignment). No work will be accepted after the last day of class (April 5, 2007).

Final grades are based on your total scores (out of 105 – 2 tests worth 35 points each, a research proposal worth 30 points, a 5 point slush fund):

$$((x/105) * 100)$$

The grading criteria are subject to change.

Appeal Policy

Answers are not always etched in stone. You will be given one week after any test or assignment is returned in order to submit written appeals to answers that you felt were unfairly marked incorrect. Beyond a day, forever hold your peace. This policy does not apply to the final test.

NOTE: I reserve the right to deduct points for appeals that I consider to be off the wall and entirely wrong (i.e., don't waste my time). In order to submit an effective appeal, you must cite the page, paragraph, and line from your text or photocopy the appropriate section of your lecture notes and demonstrate how these support the answer that you chose. Remember, if the lecture and text conflict, always pick the answer from the lecture.

Attendance and Class Participation

You are adults and can prioritize your lives accordingly. I do not take attendance, but encourage you to attend since you are responsible for all material (and occasionally get bonus points for remembering punch lines to bad jokes). I will not provide notes for missed classes. Class participation is encouraged. Your comments, questions, and ideas will help you, and others, understand the material. Exceptionally good (implying quality, not quantity) participation may result in slush fund points.

Research Participation

You **may** have the opportunity to sign up to serve as participants in research projects throughout the course (**SOME OPPORTUNITIES MAY BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS**). You will be given a research participation credit for each hour (or part of an hour) that you participate. Each of these is worth one slush fund point. **IF YOU SIGN UP FOR A STUDY AND DO NOT SHOW UP (WITHOUT A LEGITIMATE EXCUSE), 2 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR FINAL GRADE FOR EACH MISSED APPOINTMENT.**

Academic Integrity

Like on the Starship Enterprise, there is a Prime Directive that cannot be violated. You must maintain academic integrity. Cheating on a test is an obvious violation. This may result in a 0 on the test, a 0 in the course, or other penalties (like disembowelment). Plagiarism is another violation of The Prime Directive. You must cite material and ideas that are not your own. If you are caught ripping articles from journals, **YOU ARE DEAD MEAT** (phasers set to kill, not stun).

Course Schedule

The course schedule reflects the work that we will be doing each week. The schedule is tentative and subject to change. Changes will be announced in class. **You are responsible for all announcements made in class, whether you are present or not (often things are announced once only and apply to the next class period).**

Week 1, January 8:	Introduction and Overview; Chs. 1, 2
Week 2, January 15:	
Week 3, January 22:	Hunger and Eating; Ch. 3
Week 4, January 29:	Passion, Love, and Sexual Behavior; Ch. 4
Week 5, February 5:	Arousal, Attention, and Peak Performance; Ch. 5
Week 6, February 12:	Wakefulness, Alertness, Sleep, and Dreams; Ch. 6
Study Week – February 19 - 23	
Week 7, February 26:	Drug Use and Drug Addiction; Ch. 7
	Test 1 – Thursday

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY – March 2, 2007

Week 8, March 5:	Aggression, Coercive Action, and Anger; Ch 8.
Week 9, March 12:	Emotions, Stress, and Health; Ch. 9
Week 10, March 19:	Negative Emotions; Ch. 10
Week 11, March 26:	Positive Emotions; Ch. 11
	Research proposal due Friday
Week 12, April 2:	Curiosity and Creativity; Ch. 12
	Need for Control, Mastery, Self-Esteem, and Self-Regulation; Ch 13, 14
	Test 2: Scheduled by the Registrar during the examination period

NOTE: Tests cover the material above the test, and below the previous test, on the course outline.