Motivation and Emotion
Psychology 4341
Fall 2007

Professor: Stephen L. Crites, Jr., Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday – 12:00-1:30 (or by appointment)


Course Description: The study of motivation is devoted to uncovering principles that explain both why organisms engage in certain behaviors and the extent to which they persist at a behavior. A substantial amount of scientific research has revealed that there are numerous and varied influences and that these influences range from genetic to social/cultural with emotions being one important influence. The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the scientific study of motivation and emotion.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, a student should: (1) know the major theoretical perspectives that address motivated behavior; (2) understand the utility and limitations of the various theoretical perspectives; (3) understand research strategies employed in the study of motivation and emotion, (4) understand the principle motives of behavior, (5) be able apply ideas from the study of motivation to explain behavior, and (6) develop strategies to help change your own behavior.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is expected.

Exams and Assignments:
1) Quizzes (1/3 of final grade) – There will be five quizzes in the course. Quizzes will be given at the end (last 15 minutes) of the class indicated on the syllabus and assess only the material indicated on the syllabus. Failure to take a quiz will result in a score of “0” for that quiz. No make-up quizzes will be given under any circumstances. Your overall quiz grade will be the average of your four highest quiz scores (i.e., your lowest quiz grade will be dropped).
2) Midterm Exam (1/3 of final grade) – The midterm exam will assess your knowledge of all assigned readings and lectures that precede the midterm. The format of the exam will be matching, multiple-choice, and short-answer/essay.
3) Final Exam (1/3 of final grade) – The final exam will assess your knowledge of all assigned readings and lectures following the midterm exam. The format of the exam will be matching, multiple-choice, and short-answer/essay.

Failure to take the midterm or final exam will result in a score of “0” for that exam. Make-up exams will be administered only in extraordinary circumstances and only when written documentation justifying an absence for an exam is provided.
Grades: Grades for each assignment will be weighed as indicated above and averaged to determine your final grade. Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; and 0-60% = F. I cannot discuss grades over the phone or via e-mail. If you wish to inquire about a grade on an exam or your final grade, you must personally see me or provide me with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Withdrawal: The last day for you to withdraw from this class and get a “W” is November 2nd. If you withdraw after November 2nd, you will get a “W” if you are passing the course or an “F” if you are failing.

Classroom Behavior: All cell phones and pagers must be muted during the class session. You will have to leave class during any session in which an audible cell phone disrupts class.

Schedule:

Week 1 (Aug 27): Introduction to Motivation & Emotion (Ch. 1)
Week 2 (Sep 3rd): Introduction/Motivational Perspectives (Ch. 2)
Week 3 (Sep 10th): Motivational Perspectives (Ch. 2)
    Sep. 13 – Quiz 1 (Introduction & Perspectives)
Week 4 (Sep 17th): Brain & Drugs (Ch. 7)
Week 5 (Sep 24th): Brain & Drugs (Ch. 7)
    Sep. 27 – Quiz 2 (Brain & Drugs)
Week 6 (Oct 1st): Hunger (Ch. 3)
Week 7 (Oct 8th): Hunger (Ch. 3)
    Oct. 11 – Quiz 3 (Hunger)
Week 8 (Oct 15th): Sex (Ch. 4)
    Oct. 18 – Midterm Exam (Introduction through Sex)
Week 9 (Oct 22nd): Negative Emotions (Ch. 10)
Week 10 (Oct 29th): Positive Emotions (Ch. 11)
    Nov 1 – Quiz 4 (Positive & Negative Emotions)
    Nov 2 – Course Drop Deadline
Week 11 (Nov 5th): Aggression (Ch. 8)
Week 12 (Nov 12th): Curiosity (Ch. 12)
Week 13 (Nov 19th): Curiosity (Ch. 12)
    Nov 20 – Quiz 5 (Aggression & Curiosity)
    Nov 22 – Thanksgiving
Week 14 (Nov 26th): Control (Ch. 13)
Week 15 (Dec 3rd): Self-esteem (Ch. 14)
Week 16 (Dec 10th): Finals
    Dec 13 (10:00-12:45) – Final Exam (Negative Emotions through Self-esteem)