Instructor: Abdolhossein Abdollahy Zarandi, PhD
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Office: Department of Psychology, Room 116
Class Days: Thursdays: 1:30 pm-4:20 pm
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10am-12 (To make an appointment, please email me.)

Course Description

The main purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the theories and research findings in the field of motivation and emotion. Accordingly, such topics as the role of the brain in motivation and emotion, physiological needs, psychological needs, social needs, emotions, and intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, and unconscious motivation will be analyzed and discussed.

Course Objectives

1. Students will explore the “whyness” of human behavior from a psychological standpoint.

2. Students will explore the relationship between motivation and emotion and other psychological constructs.

3. Students will learn how to evaluate the various psychological approaches to motivation and emotion.

4. Students will develop an understanding of the limitations of various psychological perspectives and research methods in the context of motivation and emotion.

Course Text


Course Format

Thursdays: Lectures and Student Participation
Course Assignment: Research Project

One goal of this course is to strengthen students’ research, writing, and critical thinking abilities in the area of motivation and emotion. To this end, the students are expected to conduct an empirical study on a topic in motivation and emotion. Specifically, well into the semester and after becoming more and more familiar with the course content, you will choose a research topic and conduct a small-scale study/experiment. After doing your study, you will write your work up and submit it --in a Microsoft Word format-- for grading. The paper will be between 1800 to 2000 words, excluding the references and appendices. The report will consist of five main parts including a) Abstract and Introduction, b) Method, c) Results, d) Discussion, and e) References and Appendices. Each part will be assigned 4 points (4% of the final grade). So this assignment counts 20 points (20%) towards the final grade. The deadline for submitting a softcopy and a hardcopy will be November 25, 2014. During the first weeks of the semester, I will talk about the assignment at length. You are also welcome to come see me and/or email me for consultation and discussion.

Quizzes and Exams

You will take two random unannounced quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam throughout the semester (see Course Assessment below). The quizzes and exams consist of multiple-choice items. The exams dates are specified in the course timetable (see below). Each quiz begins at 1:30 and takes 15-20 minutes to finish. Note that each question on the quizzes and exams counts one percent towards the final grade. Also, please keep in mind that the possibility of a quiz or exam makeup is zero. If you, for some reason, couldn’t attend a quiz or exam, let me know to deal with it.

Class Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is expected because you can learn better when you are physically present. Also, there will be two random unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. Missing a quiz means losing an influential portion of the final grade.

Class participation is important and has its own points as shown below. Class participation involves two parts: Part 1) Showing such behaviors and attitudes as active listening to the lectures and other students, giving opinion during class discussions, asking questions, and being respectful to others and Part 2) Taking part in an activity I call “Motivation and E Chat Spot”. In this activity, students are expected to discuss some topics in groups of 4 and report the results of their discussions at the end of the class sessions.
Course Assessment

1. Motivation and Emotion Project Paper 20%
2. Class participation 10%
2. Two quizzes, each 10% 20%
3. Two exams, each 25% 50%

Grading Scale:

90% - 100% = A
80% - 89.9% = B
70% - 79.9% = C
60% - 69.9% = D
00% - 59.9% = F

Classroom Behavior

Please turn off your cell phone on arrival. Don’t talk when others are talking. If you want to ask a question or make a comment, raise your hand and try not to interrupt others as they speak. Don’t use your computer for irrelevant in-class activities such as emailing, visiting a social network profile, playing games, watching videos, listening to music and so on. These activities prevent you from focusing on lectures and other class engagements and may distract other students.

Disability

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Academic Conduct, Discipline, and Integrity

It is assumed that students are implicitly aware of the principles of academic conduct, discipline, and integrity. But having an explicit knowledge of the principles will be highly beneficial for
anybody working within the realm of academia. The following link provides wide-range information about academic conduct and discipline at UTEP. Please read the file carefully and enthusiastically:

http://admin.utep.edu/LinkClick.aspx?link=HOOP-Section+II.pdf&tabid=30181&mid=63285

Course Timetable

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Week 1
August 28: Chapter 1
Week 2
September 4: Chapter 2
Week 3
September 11: Chapter 3
Week 4
September 18: Chapter 4
Week 5
September 25: Chapter 5
Week 6
October 2: Chapter 6
Week 7
October 9: Chapter 7
Week 8
October 16: Midterm Exam and Chapter 8
Week 9
October 23: Chapter 9
Week 10

October 30: Chapter 10

Week 11

November 6: Chapter 11

Week 12

November 13: Chapter 12

Week 13

November 20: Chapters 13 and 14

Week 14

November 27: No Classes

Week 15

December 4: Chapters 15, and 16

December 8-12: Final Exam

Note. This syllabus is tentative and subject to change depending upon the class progress.