Course Purpose and Learning Objectives

This course is designed to cover in breadth the field of motivation theory in psychology. A variety of theoretical perspectives will be presented, compared and contrasted, and practical applications of these theories will be offered.

The follow learning outcomes are expected:

⇒ Students will be able to describe, compare and contrast core theories in motivation
⇒ Students will be able to critically evaluate fictional and non-fictional portrayals of human behavior within the context of core motivation theories
⇒ Students will be able to identify ways in which the course content can be applied to their own life circumstances to affect positive change

Student Performance Criteria

Students will be measured according to their performance on the following criteria:

⇒ Examinations (E). Four examinations shall be administered in class. No other activities will occur on test days.
⇒ Application Papers (P). Students shall create a series of papers over the term. Most will require analysis of popular movies through a motivational lens (instructions will be provided for each). The final assignment will be an in-depth analysis applying the course information to your past/present autobiography. Parts will be graded separately as they are submitted.
⇒ Quizzes (Q). A series of unannounced quizzes shall be administered at the start of certain class periods.

Grade Calculation Formula

0.30(E) + 0.25(Q) + 0.45(P)

Required Materials


Attendance Policy

I do not take formal attendance, BUT:

⇒ You must have a non-zero grade for at least 50% of the quizzes offered. Failure to meet this criteria shall result in automatic failure of the course.
⇒ You must pass (x > 55%) ALL PORTIONS of the course. Failure to meet these criteria shall result in course failure.

Note that these rules may be overridden by the instructor in extreme circumstances and in the interest of fairness.
Recovering Missed Work

⇒ I must be contacted regarding makeup tests within 7 days of the test date. If this does not occur, the test will be “unfinished.” Unfinished exams become a score of “0” and cannot be recovered.
⇒ Quizzes are not recoverable, but a portion shall be dropped at term’s end.
⇒ Paper due dates are strict; late work shall be penalized at least 5% per 24-hour period up to a maximum of 50%.

Persons with disabilities which warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life office, Rm. 112 in the University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to their implementation. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Visit http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14216-op-1015-providing-accommodations-for-students-with for more information.

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic pursuits. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Code, located at http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf.

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.19) a student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reason-

Things NOT To Do

⇒ Cell phones must be turned off or to a silent setting; texting is disallowed.
⇒ Persistent and excessive lateness will not be tolerated. If you consistently arrive to class more than 5 minutes late, I will ask for a meeting with you. If a quiz has started, you will not be allowed to take it, but you will receive credit for attendance (the lowest quiz score possible).
⇒ The use of personal listening devices during class will not be tolerated.
⇒ While I encourage an open classroom regarding communication, student discussions that become disruptive to the class will not be allowed.

Other Notes

⇒ Office hours will be posted on the course web site.

Extra credit may be earned by participating in research (http://angelostate.sona-systems.com/). If you so choose, this credit can also be earned through an alternate activity of the department’s choosing. Participation in research can potentially count for as much as 3 percentage points on your final grade. See the “Research Opportunities” link on the department homepage at: http://www.angelo.edu/dept/psychology_sociology/

This document constitutes an explicit agreement between the course instructor and the students enrolled in the course. All issues pertaining to the conduct of the course shall be governed by this document, and where it is silent, the course instructor’s discretion shall be binding.
Module | Dates (Approx.) | Assignments
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Module 1 (Chs. 1-3) | August 28 - September 15 | Papers 1, 2
Module 2 (Chs. 4-7) | September 18 - October 11 | Papers 3, 4
Module 3 (Chs. 8-11) | October 13 - November 3 | Papers 5, 6
Module 4 (Chs. 12-14) | November 6 - end of term | Paper 7

*Note — This is an estimate of the course flow. Adjustments may be made in the interest of time and pacing. Chapters are organized by modules and all materials can be found within module folders on Blackboard. Class attendance is crucial to stay current on deadlines, take quizzes, and engage the material!*

Class WILL NOT be held on the following dates: December 4 and December 6.
Writing in Academic Settings

First ask yourself, “Why am I writing this?”
Use correct grammar and punctuation, and proofread.
Is it logical? Can someone who knows nothing about my topic follow me as I talk about it?
Is it professional? Am I writing like I would talk to my friends at a party or like I would speak to a group of professionals?
Is it concise? Have I said what I needed to say in an efficient but comprehensive way?
Is it in line with the instructions? Have I followed page limits, formatting instructions, and other guidelines?