

Psychology 3703(101)
Theories of Motivation
Prothro-Yeager 102

Fall 2022

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SUGGESTED TEXTBOOK (optional):

Petri, H. L., & Govern, J. M. (2016). *Motivation: Theory, Research, and Applications* (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

The field of motivation has been relatively dormant for over 10 years. Reflecting this fact, the 6th edition of the Petri & Govern textbook listed above was published 12 years the 5th edition. It is remarkable for a textbook to go that long between editions, except if, as I've said, the field is relatively dormant. The 6th edition is now six years old and there's no indication from the publisher that a newer edition is in the works. That is not to say that motivational theories are not worth learning about, but rather, that the theories are stable at this point. What new developments there are in motivation are either microtheories that are irrelevant beyond very narrow behavioral boundaries, or have taken place in our understanding of the physiological bases of the primary drives—hunger, thirst, sex, etc. Those physiological developments are emerging so rapidly that I guess no one is willing to try to capture current thinking, put it in a textbook, and hope it survives as “current” for the typical lifespan of a motivation textbook.

Partly because the most current textbook is quite old, and partly because I want to organize the course somewhat differently than what I've found in any of the current textbooks, I'm not *requiring* a textbook in this course. I *recommend* the Petri book, though, and reading it certainly won't hurt you, but I'll be testing primarily from lectures. In order to make those lectures as accessible to you as possible, I'll provide you with very detailed outlines of my lectures. If you supplement those outlines by *attending* classes, *listening actively* to

my lectures, and *taking some additional notes*, you should do very well in the course.

Here are the topics we'll cover and readings from the Petri & McGovern textbook that are sort of relevant.

TOPICS and READINGS

Introduction—Chapter 1

Instincts and Genetics—Chapter 2

Primary Drives—Chapters 3 and 4

Mechanistic Drive Theories and Optimal Level Theories—Chapters 5, 6, and 7

Lewin's Field Theory—Chapter 8

Achievement Theory—Chapter 8

Cognitive Theories of Motivation—Chapters 9 and 10

Motivational Theories from the Industrial-Organizational Psychology Tradition—no additional readings in Petri

EXAMS AND GRADING

Four noncumulative exams will be given at approximately equal intervals throughout the semester. Tentative dates, subject to change, are September 14, October 10, November 4, and December 2. Makeup exams will be given on Monday, December 5 at 9:00 am in PY-102. Each exam will test knowledge of material covered since the previous exam.

GRADING

Course grades will be based on your accumulated point total. Four tests will each be worth 100 points. In addition, five bonus points will be available for each of six pop quizzes. Those bonus points will be

added to your points from tests. Point totals convert to letter grades as follows:

360-400	=	A
320-359	=	B
280-319	=	C
240-279	=	D
< 240	=	F

ATTENDANCE

I teach some classes in which attendance is strongly related to grades, and in those classes I try to limit absences using grade penalties for excessive absenteeism. However, in this course, the correlation between attendance and grades is only moderate, $r = 0.44$. I think that's because I provide detailed outlines of all lectures and tests are based on those lectures. You are more likely to do well in this course if you attend classes *and* study the outlines, but some students have done well with less frequent attendance and an emphasis on studying the outlines. With that in mind, I encourage attendance, but I do not require attendance, except on days of exams. To encourage your attendance at lectures, there will be six "pop quizzes" throughout the course. Each will be worth 5 bonus points. Those points will be added to your accumulated point total from four exams and can contribute 30 points to your accumulated point total. That's equivalent to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a letter grade at the end of the semester. Missed pop quizzes cannot be made up.

MISSED AND MAKEUP EXAMS

Students who miss scheduled exams will be allowed to take makeup exams on Monday, December 5 (during final exam week) at 9:00 am in PY-102. There will be a one letter grade penalty for exams that were missed for unexcused reasons. There is no grade penalty for exams that were missed due to excused reasons. University policy dictates three types of excused absences:

- the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner stating that the student was unable to test on the day of the test;
- the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner stating that the student's dependent child was ill on the day of the test;

- the student provides a written excuse from an official of Midwestern State University stating that the student was in attendance at a mandatory university function on the day of the test.

Funerals, employment-related absences, illnesses not requiring medical attention, job interviews, family emergencies, automobile malfunctions, court appearances, etc., will they are legitimate reasons to miss class, do not constitute excused absences by university policy.

DISABILITIES

Individuals requiring special accommodations according to the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the MSU Disability Support Services office.