

Psychology 3703-X21
Theories of Motivation (asynchronous online)

Spring 2025

Instructor: G. M. Diekhoff
Office: O'Donohoe 218
Phone: 940-397-4348
Email: george.diekhoff@msutexas.edu

OFFICE HOURS

I will be available for virtual office hours by appointment. If you want to teleconference with me, email me at george.diekhoff@msutexas.edu to arrange an appointment. At the time of your appointment, go to <https://doxy.me/DrGeorgeDiekhoff>. Be sure to use Google Chrome, Firefox or Safari as your browser or you can download the free doxy.me app for your smart phone. Once you log in to Doxy.Me, you will be in my virtual waiting room. I will be notified that you are there and will open our conversation. I also am available for conferences in my office on MWF 10:00-12:00, but you need to email me in advance to schedule an appointment during those office hours to avoid scheduling conflicts.

SUGGESTED TEXTBOOK (optional):

Petri, H. L., & Govern, J. M. (2013). *Motivation: Theory, Research, and Applications* (6th ed.). Cengage. ISBN: 9781111841096

The field of motivation has been relatively dormant for over 10 years. Reflecting this fact, the 6th edition of the Petri & Govern textbook referenced above was published 12 years after their 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 12 years old and there's no indication from the publisher that a newer edition is in the works. That is not to say that motivation theories are not worth learning about, but rather, that the theories are relatively stable, at least for now. 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, aggression, 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 4-5 year lifespan of a 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 from the information I deliver to you in lectures. In order to make those lectures as accessible to you as possible, I'll provide you with very detailed outlines of my lectures and, of course, the lectures are all recorded so that you can view them as many times as you wish.

COMMUNICATION: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Although D2L will serve as the platform to provide all pre-recorded lectures and tests in the course, all other communication with me will be via email. I do not use the messaging system within D2L; that just creates one more place where I have to check for messages each day! Use my MSU email address

(george.diekhoff@msutexas.edu) to communicate with me and I will use the “preferred” email address you have on file with MSU to communicate with you. If you do not receive an email from me that you expected to receive, check the spam/junk folder of your email software.

TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND TESTING SCHEDULE

Here are the dates of the four tests in the course. Listed with each test are the instructional videos that you should view to prepare for those tests, the lecture outlines that you should study, and the recommended readings in the Petri text.

TEST 1: February 14

Instructional Videos: Motiv1 through Motiv8 (through anorexia)
Lecture Outlines: Introduction, Instinct & Genetic Theories, Physio 1
Petri: Chapters 1-4

TEST 2: March 19

Instructional Videos: Motiv9 (beginning with bulimia) through Motiv17 (through optimal level)
Lecture Outlines: Physio 1, Physio 2, Physio 3, Mechanistic & Drive Theories, Optimal Level
Petri: Chapters 3-7

TEST 3: April 14

Instructional Videos: Motiv17(beginning with Field Theory) through Motiv24
Lecture Outlines: Field Theory, Achievement Theory
Petri: Chapter 8

TEST 4: May 9

Instructional Videos: Motiv25 through Motiv31
Lecture Outlines: Cognitive Theories, Motivational Theories from Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Petri: Chapters 9-10

LECTURES: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

This is an asynchronous online course. What that means is that I will post recorded lectures on D2L which you can view at your convenience. The lectures for this course were recorded in a face-to-face class in 2022, but the substance of the recordings remains current and they will be used for the last time in this online course this semester. The videos, called “Motiv1” through “Motiv31” are found under the Content tab of our course shell in D2L. Be aware that videos and the lecture outlines contain occasional remarks that were accurate at the time the recordings were made, but which are no longer relevant for this semester. In particular, days and dates mentioned in the recorded lectures are going to be incorrect for the current semester. In addition, the live class took occasional pop quizzes that will not be available in this online course but which are mentioned in the recorded lectures. In short, although the recorded content about topics in motivation is correct, you should ignore anything in the videos that talks about course policies, procedures, dates, etc. That information will be provided in emails and in the current syllabus.

In the recorded lectures you will hear me speaking and will see the detailed outline from which I’m lecturing. I’ll also send you those lecture outlines by email at the beginning of the semester. Find a place to keep those—you’ll need them as the semester unfolds. The lecture outlines are Word document which are best viewed using the Web Layout view found under the View tab in Word. Although having these outlines will be helpful to you, there is a lot of research that says that note *taking* is vastly superior to note *getting* when it comes to the learning process. What I suggest you do as you listen to the recorded lectures is to create your own outline from just what you hear me saying. Don’t copy the outline I provide. Just look at it to see the figures, graphs, pictures,

etc. that are presented in the outline. But make your own outline from what I'm saying. Once you've created your own outline in this way, compare your outline to the ones that I provide. Blend the two outlines to get a set of notes that includes both what my outlines contain and what you put into your own outlines. It's a lot of work, but it should prepare you very well for the exams.

I have not made any special effort to coordinate my lectures with the material presented in your textbook. Except by coincidence, my organization is different than the organization in your text. While there is some overlap between the content covered in lectures and content covered in the textbook, lectures deal with some topics that aren't discussed in the text and the text deals with some topics that aren't discussed in lectures. You should focus your study efforts on the recorded lectures and the outlines I'll send you because that's where the tests will come from. Treat the textbook as a backup for topics covered in lecture and as a source for additional information on the topics we cover.

EXAMS AND GRADING

Four noncumulative exams will be given at approximately equal intervals throughout the semester. Tentative dates, subject to change, are February 14, March 19, April 14, and May 9. Tests will be available on D2L beginning at 8:00 am on these dates and ending 24 hours later. Makeup exams will be given on Wednesday, May 14, beginning at 8:00 am and ending 24 hours later. Remember that you are responsible for scheduling the viewing of the pre-recorded lectures. It is important that you create a study calendar for this class so that you know which recordings you'll be viewing on which days so that you'll be prepared for the tests on the scheduled dates. You don't want to find yourself in the position of having to watch three or four recordings (or even more!) the night before an exam!

GRADING

Course grades will be based on the average of your four exams:

90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
59 and lower = F

MISSED AND MAKEUP EXAMS

Students who miss scheduled exams will be allowed to take makeup exams on Wednesday, May 14, beginning at 8:00 am and ending 24 hours later. 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.

Employment-related absences, illnesses not requiring medical attention, job interviews, family emergencies, automobile malfunctions, court appearances, etc., do not constitute excused absences.

DISABILITIES

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