

# Psychology 3201

## Motivation and Emotion

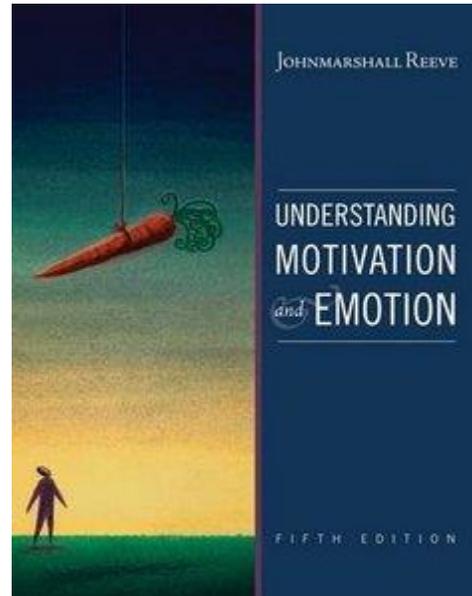
**Instructor:** Peter D. MacIntyre, Ph.D.

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**Text:** Johnmarshall Reeve,  
Understanding Motivation and Emotion.  
Toronto: Wiley.

(The fifth edition is pictured here)



### **General Course Description:**

The description is offered as a general reference and specific components of the course will change from year to year and when taught on campus versus online. Always refer to the course outline for the grading scheme for the year/section in which you enrol.

This course will introduce students to various ways of conceptualising motivation. Central to this discussion is the nature of emotion and its motivational properties. Your textbook covers each of the major theories that we will discuss and it is strongly recommended that you purchase the latest edition of the text. It makes a very good reference text for future courses or research.

Motivation has been studied by everyone from tyrants and despots to philosophers and kings. Common sense theories of motivation abound, but lay-person explanations tend to focus on a single characteristic, state of mind, or trait. For example, an aggressive action might be simply attributed to a poor home environment, a disgruntled employee, or an authoritarian personality. Extensive research on the topic reveals that motivation is best seen as a layered process, with physiological, situational, cognitive, emotional, and personality jointly contributing to behaviour. Therefore, any one explanation or reason given for behaviour is likely inadequate to generate the behaviour and a partial explanation, at best. The potential for conflict among these systems further increases the complexity of motivation.

On campus, there will be a lecture every week. Online, most weeks will include an recorded mini-lecture or podcast. In both on campus and online versions of the course, online forums will be used to discuss theory, concepts, and research. If you are taking the course on campus, there will be weekly in-class discussion and graded activities.

The forum discussions are where you will concepts in depth. It is therefore essential that you complete the assigned readings before posting and be prepared to meaningfully contribute to the discussion.

### ***Course Objectives:***

- I. To appreciate the ways in which motivation is a multifaceted concept by understanding the role that various motivational and emotional systems play in producing behaviour.
- II. To study the types of research efforts that have been associated with motivation.
- III. To understand the importance and complexity of the emotional system, its interaction with other systems, and its potential to motivate behaviour.
- IV. To apply these theories to understand our own motives, emotions, and behaviour

### ***Evaluation:***

1. **Quizzes.** There will be quiz almost every week. The quizzes will include material from the textbook and from the learning support materials, as indicated each week. Each quiz will have 10 multiple choice items or similar items and a 10 minute time limit. The lowest score among the 10 quizzes will be dropped. Note that some quizzes will cover one chapter and others will cover two chapters. The purpose of the quiz is to have you read the chapters and use the learning support materials (e.g., podcasts, videos, documents).
2. **Participation.** The key to a good experience in the course and to earning a good grade will be points earned for forum posts. The quality and quantity of comments offered online will be evaluated. To receive credit, the forum posting must be made during the week in which the forum question appears. The forums will remain visible after the week is over, but typically you will not get credit for late posts. If a medical or other emergency comes up, please notify the instructor immediately and with appropriate verification (e.g., a doctor's note), we can discuss an accommodation.

The forum grades are earned week-by-week. Forums grades should not be seen as percentages of gains and losses. There is no way to loose points in the forums; all grades are earned by the quality of the posts you write. From time to time bonus forums will allow students to enhance their grade by responding to two questions in a week. Remember to take advantage of these opportunities. Occasionally I have a student say that she or he is disappointed in their grade and asks if there is an additional assignment that they can do. The short answer is no. This is not my

practice and violates Psychology department policy because adding a little assignment at the end that only one person can do is unfair to all of the other students.. You will get the grade you earn as we go through the course. So please do take up the 'bonus' questions whenever you can.

The following is a guide for the point value of the forum posts:

GRADE = 4.0 - a rare, truly outstanding post, integrates ideas & uses resources exceptionally well. Makes a valuable, novel point that contributes to a new understanding of the material. This is an unusual grade, reserved for superior contributions.

GRADE = 3.0 - a very good post, integrates ideas and draws upon resources effectively. Makes a clear contribution to the course. This will be the grade for a high quality post.

GRADE = 2.0 - a good post that could be improved with additional links to the resources provided in the course. The argument might be expanded upon or better organized, the supporting material could be used more effectively.

GRADE = 1.0 - a post that needs a fair bit of work. Perhaps the post is too brief or the writer's position is not explained or developed. The post likely needs considerable additional support, referencing, citing other sources, etc. in order to develop a coherent argument that adds to the understanding of the material.

Note: The overall percentage of the grad assigned to the online forum portion changes from year to year but usually is around 40% - 50%. There is no term paper in this course so I am expecting you will do a fair bit of scholarly writing in the forums.

3. **Final Exam.** The final exam will cover material selected from the full course, something from every chapter. The reading list will be posted on the Moodle site.

### ***Academic Dishonesty***

If a student commits any form of academic dishonesty as defined by the CBU Policy published in the Academic Calendar (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, copying, passing off someone else's work as your own, etc.) the policy will be enforced. If you know that another student has plagiarized (copied someone else's work) or cheated on a test, please let the instructor know. Why should you work hard with integrity and have someone else cheat their way through?

### ***Moodle***

This course will make extensive use of the Moodle course software, especially for forums and for online quizzes. You must keep up with the material on Moodle week-by-week. There will be no opportunity provided after the exam to improve a grade.