

MOTIVATION & ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Deborah Bergman Deitcher

Spring Semester, 2021

debdeitch@post.tau.ac.il

Office Hours: By appt.

Short description:

Why are some people driven to succeed more than others? Why are some people able to use criticism to improve their performance while others give up? Motivation includes many aspects such as goals, beliefs, and experience, which can impact upon our learning and achievement. In this course we will examine both theories and research to gain an understanding of motivation and how it impacts our daily lives, particularly in the area of learning. Some of the approaches we will cover include drive theory, reinforcement learning, self-efficacy theory, expectancy-value theory, theories of intelligence, and others.

Readings will provide an overview of each topic. Lectures and class discussions will focus on various aspects within the topics and a more in-depth view of subtopics.

Assessment:

Minor assignments:

There will be four short homework assignments over the semester. The lowest score will be dropped from the final grade. 30% of the course grade.

Midterm:

The class includes an in-class midterm. 18% of the course grade.

Final requirement:

This class includes a final paper, 8-10 pages. Submission dates are set by the university and the Liberal Arts program and must be respected. 42% of course grade.

Participation:

The course is enhanced by discussion of various issues during class. Participation will serve as 10% of the course grade.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Students are requested to keep their cell phones on silent and away during class.