Dr. Lisa Harrison, Ph.D.  
office: 361B Amador Hall  
phone: 278-6815  
e-mail: Lharriso@csus.edu  
office hours: Tues & Thur 3:00 – 4:30  
class website: http://Lharrison14.pageout.net

Texts
- *In the Wake of 9/11: The Psychology of Terror*, Tom Pyszczynski, Sheldon Solomon, and Jeff Greenberg

There are also several readings available electronically. In order to access the articles, you need to go to the class website (URL above) and download an electronic copy of the articles. The articles are in PDF form; thus, you will need Acrobat Reader in order to view the articles. If you do not have Acrobat reader, you may download it for free at www.adobe.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of theories and experimental findings related to basic processes in animal and human motivation.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 001, PSYC 005, PSYC 008, PSYC 101 recommended. 3 units.

COURSE GOALS AND OVERVIEW

- One goal of this course is to provide a broad examination of several topics concerning motivation.
  - Self-determination and implicit motivation
  - Nonconscious & conscious motivation
  - Self-esteem motivational processes
  - Sexual motivation
  - Terror Management Theory

- A second goal of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to read and analyze original sources (rather than textbooks). I hope that students will become comfortable reading original research studies and reviews from psychological journals and books. Thus, the course will focus on the empirical study of how motivational processes influence human behavior. This will enable students to understand how various research methodologies are used to understand motivational processes.

- A third goal of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to participate in a seminar type class. Thus, much of the class time will consist of discussion of the readings, rather than on lectures. Therefore, students should be prepared to take a very active role during each class period and engage in discussions that reflect a thoughtful consideration of the readings.

EXAMS

- There will be four regular exams during the semester, plus a final comprehensive exam. Each of the four semester exams will be worth 25% of your final grade. However, I will drop your lowest semester exam score. The comprehensive final exam is also worth 25% of your final grade. The exams will only be given on the scheduled exam dates.

- Exam questions will be based on the textbook, lectures and class discussions. The exam questions may be a mixture of multiple choice questions, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.
MISS ED EXAMS

♦ If you miss one exam during the semester, you will receive a zero on this exam and I will drop this exam from your final grade. I shall enforce this policy regardless of your reason for missing the exam.

♦ If you miss a second exam during the semester and you can provide documentation that the work was missed due to illness, military service, extreme hardship, or death in the immediate family, you will be allowed to complete a make-up exam. However, you must contact Dr. Harrison immediately to arrange for a make-up exam. In addition, you must provide documentation concerning your absence before you take the make-up exam. You have one week following your return to class to arrange to make-up the work you missed.

♦ If you miss a second exam for any reason other than illness, military service, extreme hardship, or death in the immediate family, you will not be allowed to complete a make-up exam. Thus, you will not be allowed to take a makeup exam because you are going on a cruise, ski trip, honeymoon etc!

Quizzes

There will be many pop quizzes throughout the semester. You should expect to have one during most class days. Quiz questions will cover material from the assigned readings for the day. Quizzes will contain several multiple-choice or True/False questions. These quizzes are designed to encourage you to prepare for class by closely reading the day’s assignment. Thus, if you read the material before the class period then you should do fine on the quizzes.

Students who miss no more than 3 quizzes, and earn an average grade of 80% or higher on the quizzes, can opt out of the final comprehensive exam. Thus, your averaged quiz grades will take the place of your final exam grade. If you like, you may take the final exam and I will use the highest score (averaged quiz grade or final exam) toward your final grade. Students who miss 1 or fewer quizzes will have 2 percentage points added to their average quiz grade. Thus, if you miss 1 or fewer quizzes you may opt out of the final comprehensive exam if you earn an average of 78% or higher on your quizzes.

You will not be allowed to makeup quizzes you miss, regardless of the reason for missing the quiz.

CHEATING

My interactions with you are based on the expectation of mutual trust and honor. Please do not give me any reason to be suspicious. Your work is to be the product of your own thinking and writing. You should avoid plagiarism of all forms at all cost. If you are in doubt as to whether some act constitutes a violation of the honesty policy, please ask me before it is too late. If you cheat or plagiarize, you will receive an F for the course and I will report you to the Dean’s Office.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Consideration of others in class should be important to us all. To be fair to everyone else in class, I ask that you follow these standards.

♦ Be prompt & do not leave early. Late arrivals and early departures distract everyone’s attention from the business of the class. It is rude to both the instructor and to the other students. If you absolutely must leave class early, discuss this with Dr. Harrison before class begins. Sit near the exit.
- **Don’t chat.** Talking privately to the person sitting next to you is rude and distracting, even if your conversation is related to the class topic. Please raise the topic in discussion with the whole class, or save your personal discussion until after class.

- **Respect your classmates.** This class will be a safe place for all students to voice their reasoned reflections and thoughts. I will not tolerate ridicule or harassment of classmates. Please treat others with respect, even if you disagree with their opinions or statements.

- **No napping.** If you are going to sleep through class, you might as well do it in your own bed—then your instructor and the rest of the class won’t ridicule you. Besides, showing up just to sleep won’t help you learn the material anyway.

- **Cell phones.** Turn them off! If you must keep them on discuss this with Dr. Harrison. Quietly leave the room if you need to take a phone call.

- **No text messaging and no MP3 players.** You may bring your laptop computer to class. However, you must sit in the back row of the classroom.

---

**GRADES**

Your grade will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% – 93%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92% – 90%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89% – 87%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86% – 83%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% – 82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79% – 77%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76% – 73%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72% – 70%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69% – 67%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66% – 63%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62% – 60%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**INCOMPLETES**

I will only give incompletes to a student who is unable to complete the requirements of the course due to documented illness, military service, extreme hardship, or death in the immediate family. In addition, you must have completed at least 50% of the course work at a passing rate.

---

**ACCOMODATIONS**

Please let me know as soon as possible if you need special accommodations for this class.