

BEHV 3014 MOTIVATION AND EMOTION

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 101678

Coordinator Tim Marsh (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Tim Marsh/>)

Description The study of motivation and emotion explores the reasons behind people's behaviours, thoughts, and feelings. This subject examines core research and theory on motivational and emotional systems, exploring how these systems function in general and how that functioning varies due to gender, culture, and other sources of difference. Concepts of motivation and emotion are central to understanding human psychology. The subject positions the topic in relation to other areas of psychological theory (such as learning theory, social psychology, personality, and cognition), investigates its role in psychological practice, and addresses its impact upon practical and philosophical debates within the discipline. Students are encouraged to explore and reflect upon the role of motivational systems in their own lives.

School Psychology

Discipline Behavioural Science

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 3 subject

Pre-requisite(s) BEHV 1016 AND BEHV 1018

Restrictions

Note that only students enrolled at WSU Online may register in the WSU Online subjects offered at that location.

Assumed Knowledge

Basic understanding of core concepts of personality, learning theory, biological, social and developmental psychology.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Identify and explain the major concepts and key research findings in the study of motivation and emotion.
2. Evaluate psychological phenomena using motivational concepts and theories.
3. Differentiate biological and environmental factors behind individual variation in motivational functioning, including the roles of gender and culture.
4. Critique assumptions and perspectives on the role of motivation and emotion theory in controversial psychological debates.
5. Distinguish scientific evidence over opinion to explain and analyse human behaviour.
6. Reflect upon factors impacting one's own motivation, including the role of gender and cultural background.

Subject Content

1. Motivational systems:

- Reflexes
- Instincts
- Sensory sensations
- Drives
- Arousal mechanisms
- Basic emotions
- Social emotions

2. Sources of relevance judgement

- Evolutionary theory
- Learning
- Cognition
- Decision making

3. Motivation and core psychological debates

- The innate vs. acquired (nature/nurture) debate
- The free-will vs. determinism debate

4. Application to practice:

- Introduction to Applied Behaviour Analysis
- Introduction to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
- Reflections on culture and gender

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Quiz	12 x 5-question quizzes	20	N	Individual	N
Case Study	2,300 words	40	N	Individual	N
Interview	10 minute video	30	N	Group/ Individual	N
Quiz	12 x 5-question quizzes	10	N	Individual	N

WSU Online Trimesters

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Quiz	6 x 10-question quizzes	30	N	Individual	N
Case Study	2,000 words	40	N	Individual	N
Log/ Workbook	2 x 500 words	30	N	Individual	N

Teaching Periods

WSU Online TRI-2 (2025)

Wsu Online

Online

Subject Contact Tim Marsh (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Tim Marsh/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV3014_25-OT2_OW_2#subjects)

Spring (2025)

Bankstown City

On-site

Subject Contact Tim Marsh (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Tim Marsh/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV3014_25-SPR_BK_1#subjects)

Penrith (Kingswood)

On-site

Subject Contact Tim Marsh (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Tim Marsh/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV3014_25-SPR_KW_1#subjects)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

Subject Contact Tim Marsh (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Tim Marsh/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV3014_25-SPR_PS_1#subjects)