

30433-MOTIVATION

3-Week Summer Term, 2009

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MTWRF, 9:00-12:00, WSH 247

Objectives

This course introduces you to the psychology of motivation and emotion. During this semester, you will learn about the behavioral and physiological properties of motivational systems such as thirst, hunger, sex, pain, frustration, and achievement motivation. Major emotional systems will be studied in detail, including fear, frustration, loss, love, and happiness. Special attention will be devoted to establishing the evolutionary basis of the mechanisms underlying motivation and emotion. You will also learn how this knowledge is currently being applied in several areas, particularly in the treatment of individuals suffering from emotional disorders such as anxiety, phobia, and depression.

Outline

Introduction

Presentation and description of this course. General review of factors that affect motivation. Hellenistic philosophy of the emotions. The mind-body problem. Science. The biology of emotion.

FIRST EXAM: Course procedures; Class material; Chapters 1 and 2.

Basic concepts.

Drive, activation, reinforcement, and incentives.

SECOND EXAM: Course procedures; Class material; Chapter 6.

Aversive motivation.

Pain, fear, escape-avoidance, agonistic behavior.

THIRD EXAM: Course procedures; Class material; Chapter 9.

Loss, frustration, anxiety, and conflict.

Frustration and loss, frustration theory, conflict theory, defining anxiety.

FOURTH EXAM: Course procedures; Class material; Chapter 10.

Achievement and attraction.

Achievement motivation, sensation seeking, affiliation, attraction, love.

FIFTH EXAM: Course procedures; Class material; Chapter 14.

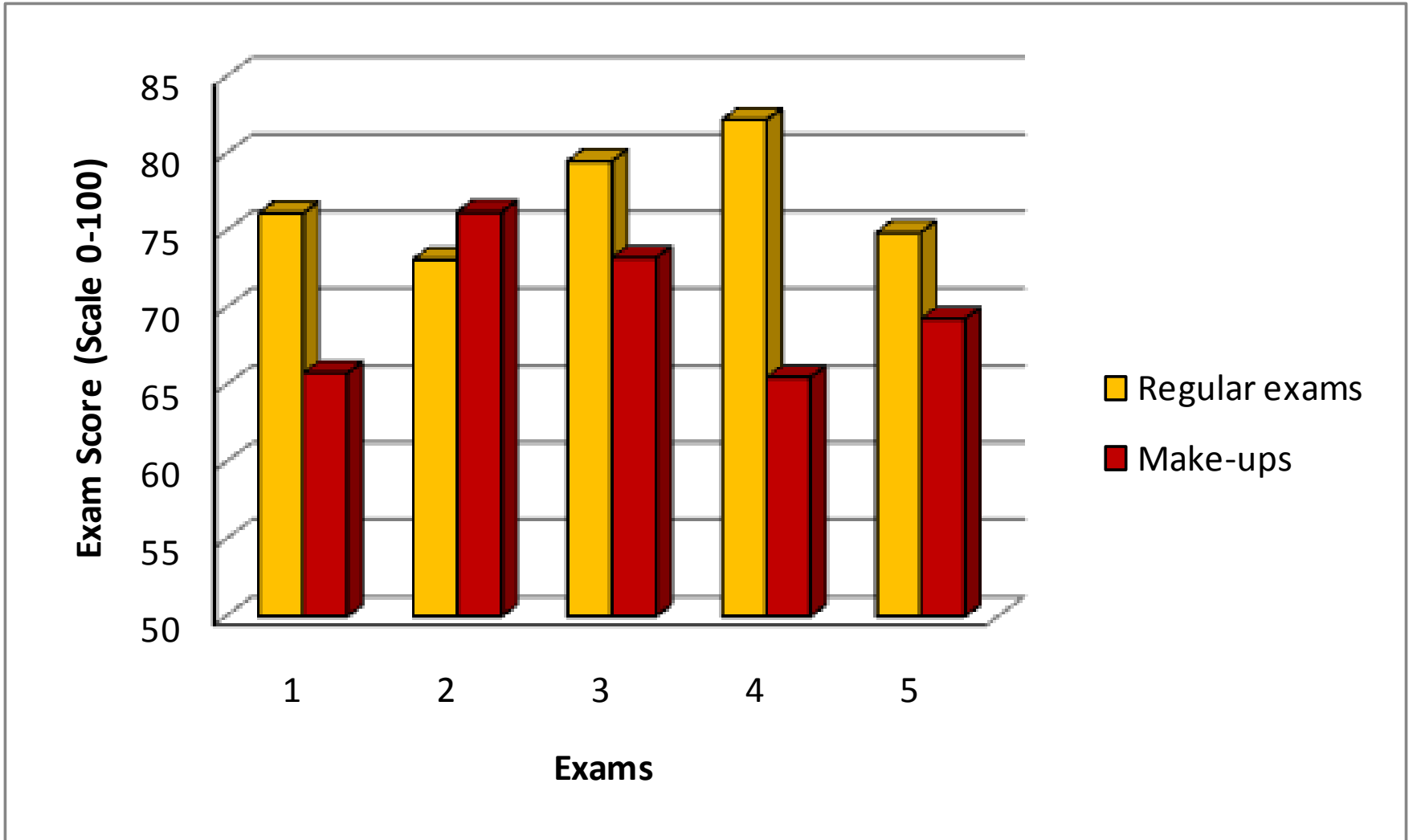
Exams

There will be 5 exams, each worth a maximum of 100 points. In terms of reading material, there will be no overlap between the exams. There will be no comprehensive final. Exams will involve multiple-choice questions.

Missing exams

You will be able to take a make-up test for missing exams at **9:00 a.m., Friday, May 29, WSH 247.** While you do not need to justify to me your absences in general, or your absence in an exam day, it is important that you notice the impact that make-up exams have in students' grades.

Does it pay to postpone the exams?



Extra Points

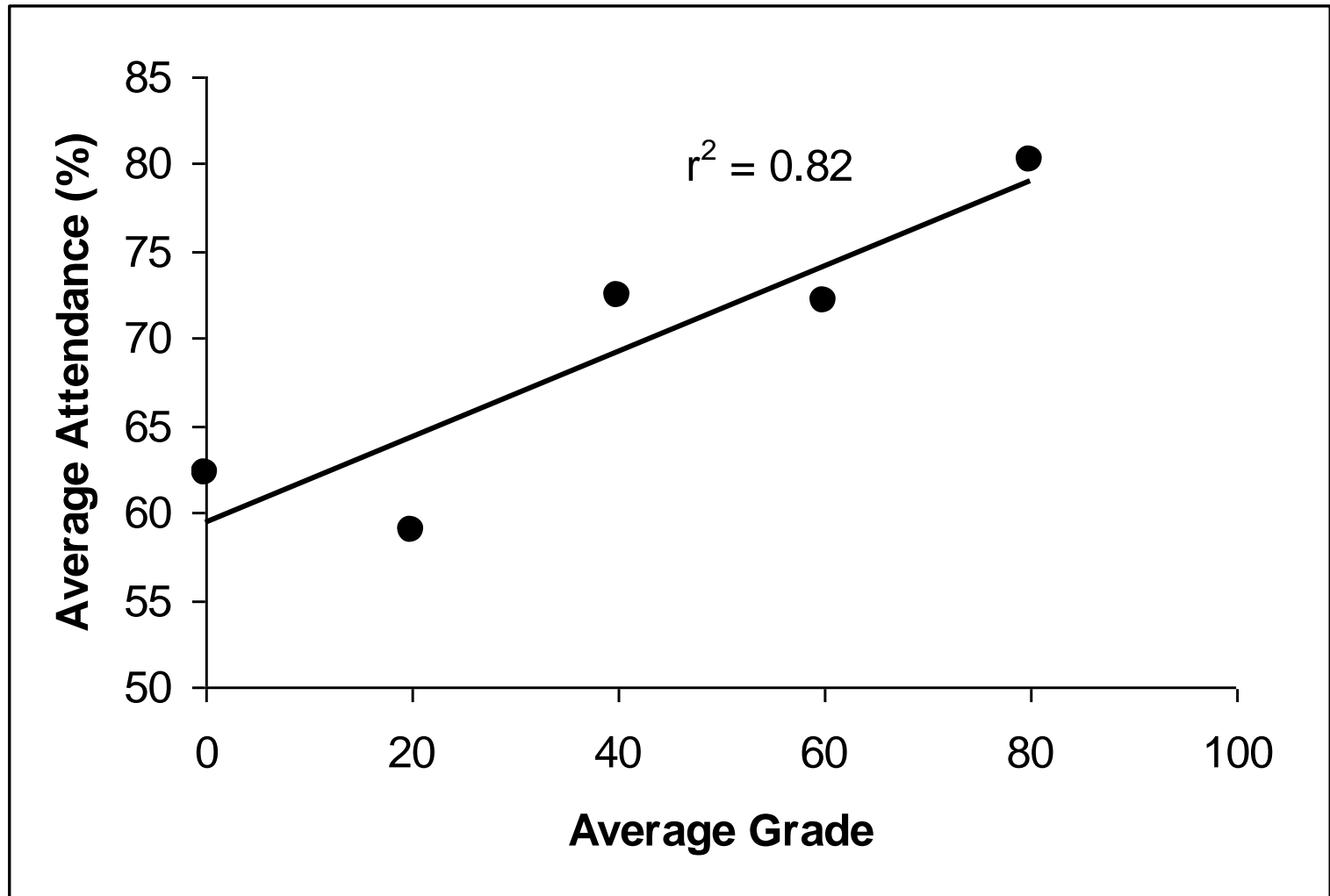
You will be able to earn up to 5 extra points by answering additional questions or participating in research projects. Information about these projects will be provided by faculty and graduate students in the Psychology Department. See PDF document on how to register for experimental participation (SonaHandout.PDF).

Grading

Your final score will be the average of the 5 exams plus the extra points. Average grades will be round up to the next whole number (e.g., 89.1=90, 88.9=89).

90-100	→	A
80-89	→	B
70-79	→	C
60-69	→	D
0-59	→	F

Attendance and grades



Malcolm Gladwell: What we can learn from spaghetti sauce



Gladwell's lecture

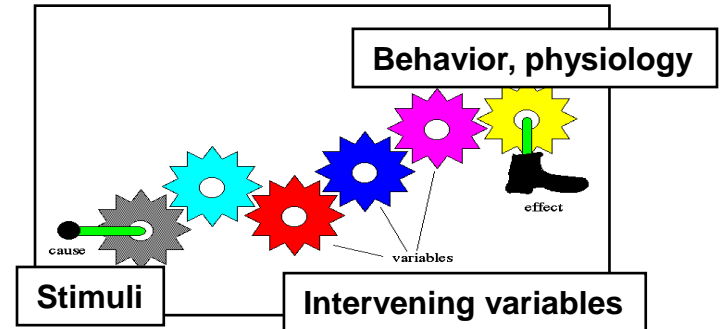


- Scientific method: how to assess food preferences?
- General vs. individual preferences?
- Horizontal segmentation: diversity of choices.
- Choices and happiness.
- Platonic dish: a universal, perfect recipe.
- Embracing diversity leads to happiness.

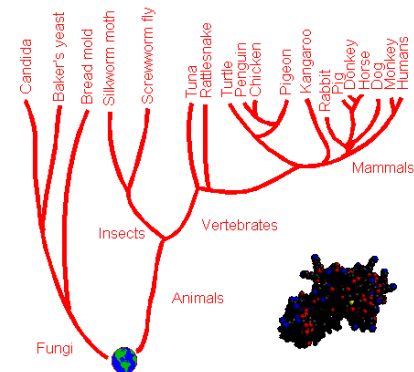
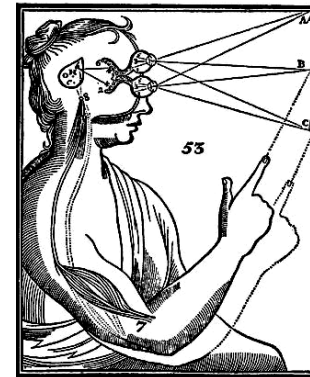
Some fundamental concepts

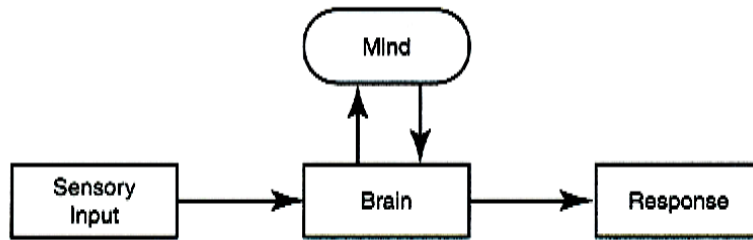
Motivation, emotion, and related concepts:

- Determinism
- Mechanicism
- Evolution and mental continuity
- Need
- Drive
- Homeostasis
- Incentive
- Hedonic value
- Materialistic monism (physicalism)

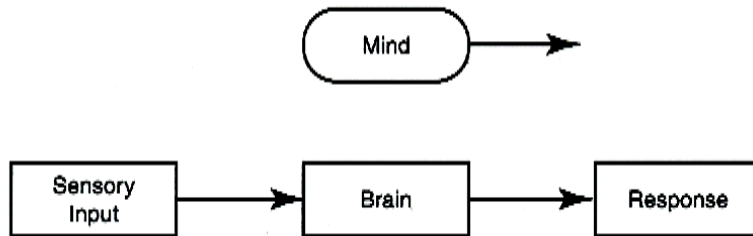


THE MECHANICAL PHILOSOPHY

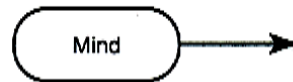




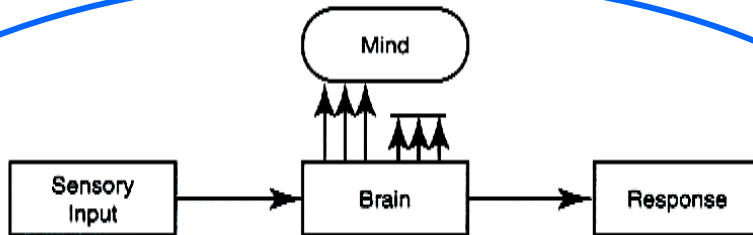
A. Cartesian dualism. Arrows indicate causal relationship between mind and brain.



B. Parallelism. No causal relation between mind and brain. They just run in parallel.



C. Idealistic monism (idealism). There is nothing but mind.



D. Materialistic monism (identity theory). Mind is a function of brain processes and has no causal properties. All mind states have corresponding brain states, but not all brain states have corresponding mind states.