Thinking About Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behavior 2e

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Biopsychological Domain



Motivation and Emotion Chapter



Module 10

Motivation

Module 10: Motivation

Introduction to Motivation

Motivation

• A need or desire that energizes and directs behavior toward a goal

Module 10: Motivation

Historic Explanations: Instincts

Instinct

- A complex, inherited, unlearned behavior that is rigidly patterned throughout a species
- William James listed 37 instincts.
- Difficulty using instincts to both label and explain behaviors

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Historic Explanations: Drives

Drives

- Aroused tension states created by imbalances
- Prompt an organism to restore the balance, typically reducing the drive
- Part of drive-reduction theory

- The idea that a physiological need creates an aroused tension state (a drive) that motivates an organism to satisfy the need
- Eating and drinking are examples of drive-reducing behaviors.

Need (as for food, water)





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Biological Explanations: Arousal Theories

Arousal

• Levels of alertness and responsiveness

Yerkes-Dodson Law

- The theory that a degree of psychological arousal helps performance, but only to a point
- Optimum level of arousal depends on the difficulty of the task.
- Each person has an optimum level of stimulation they like to maintain.

Yerkes-Dodson Law



Arousal

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Biological Explanations: Homeostasis

Homeostasis

- A tendency to maintain a balanced or constant internal state
- The regulation of any aspect of body chemistry, such as blood glucose, around a particular level
- Any change in levels, up or down, results in being motivated to bring the level back to normal.

Normal body temperature







Normal body temperature









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Cognitive **Explanations:** Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivation

Extrinsic Motivation

• A desire to perform a behavior because of promised rewards or threats of punishment

Intrinsic Motivation

• A desire to perform a behavior for its own sake and to be effective

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Clinical Explanations: Hierarchy of Needs

Abraham Maslow (1908-1970)

• Humanistic psychologist who developed the hierarchy of needs



Hierarchy of Needs

- Maslow's pyramid of human needs beginning at the base with physiological needs that must be satisfied before higher level safety needs become active.
- Continually higher-level needs won't become active until lower-level needs have been satisfied.

Physiological needs

Safety needs

Need to feel that the world is organized and predictable; need to feel safe, secure, and stable

Physiological needs

Belongingness and love needs

Need to love and be loved, to belong and be accepted; need to avoid loneliness and alienation

Safety needs

Need to feel that the world is organized and predictable; need to feel safe, secure, and stable

Physiological needs

Esteem needs

Need for self-esteem, achievement, competence, and independence; need for recognition and respect from others

Belongingness and love needs

Need to love and be loved, to belong and be accepted; need to avoid loneliness and alienation

Safety needs

Need to feel that the world is organized and predictable; need to feel safe, secure, and stable

Physiological needs

Selfactualization needs

Need to live up to one's fullest and unique potential

Esteem needs

Need for self-esteem, achievement, competence, and independence; need for recognition and respect from others

Belongingness and love needs

Need to love and be loved, to belong and be accepted; need to avoid loneliness and alienation

Safety needs

Need to feel that the world is organized and predictable; need to feel safe, secure, and stable

Physiological needs

Self-Actualization

- According to Maslow, the need to realize our full and unique potential
- Characterized by autonomy, selfacceptance, acceptance of emotions and trust

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Clinical Explanations: Achievement

Henry Murray (1893-1988)

 Neo-Freudian who first established the concept of achievement motivation and developed important personality testing tools

Achievement Motivation

- A desire for significant accomplishment
- A desire for the mastery of things, people, or ideas
- A desire for attaining a high standard

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Hunger: A Closer Look

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Hunger: A Closer Look

Physiology of Hunger

Glucose

- Form of sugar which circulates through the body
- One feels hunger when the levels become low.

Insulin

- Hormone which allows the body to use glucose for energy or fat production
- As insulin levels increase, glucose levels decrease.

Leptin

- Protein produced by bloated fat cells
- Send a message to "stop eating"

Orexin

- Hunger-triggering hormone
- Produced by the hypothalamus
- As glucose levels drop, orexin levels increase and person feels hungry

Hypothalamus

- Regulates appetite
- Monitors leptin levels



Basal Metabolic Rate (BMR)

• The body's resting rate at which we burn calories for energy

Set Point

- The point at which an individual's "weight thermostat" is supposedly set.
- When the body falls below this weight, increased hunger and a lower basal metabolic rate (BMR) may act to restore the lost weight.

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Hunger: A Closer Look

Environment and Hunger

External Incentives

• Include the sight, sound, and smell of food

Cultural Influences on Eating

- Cultural views on obesity can vary
- Culture influences the foods we like and dislike.

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Hunger: A Closer Look

Eating Disorders

Anorexia Nervosa

- An eating disorder in which normal weight people have a distorted self-perception of being "fat"
- Usually in adolescent females



Anorexia Nervosa

- Anorexics put themselves on selfstarvation regimens
- May become dangerously underweight (15% of more below normal)



Bulimia Nervosa

- An eating disorder characterized by episodes of overeating
- Usually overeat high calorie foods
- Overeating is followed by vomiting, using laxatives, fasting, or excessive exercise

The End