



William Moulton Marston's Legacy (DISC History)

William Moulton Marston's life story is an extraordinary one—filled with accomplishments which at first seem totally unrelated. He was a lawyer, a psychologist, invented the first functional lie detector polygraph, created the DISC model for emotions and behavior of normal people, authored self-help books, and created the Wonder Woman comic.

The Basic Facts

Born: May 9, 1893 in Cliftondale, MA

Died: May 2, 1947 in Rye, NY, from cancer

Wife: Elizabeth Holloway (m. 1915, 2 children)

Polyandrous Partner: Olive Byrne (former student, 2 children)



Education: BA from Harvard University (1915), LLB from Harvard Law School (1918), PhD in psychology from Harvard University (1921), Teacher: American University

Comic Book Hall of Fame induction: 2006

The Lie Detector - Marston's Earliest Professional Years

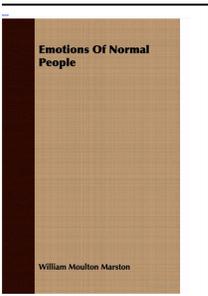
Having discovered a correspondence between blood pressure and lying, he built a device to measure changes in a person's blood pressure while the subject was being questioned. Marston formally published his early polygraph findings in 1917 on the lie detection invention he first constructed in 1915.

During the 1920s and 30s Marston was an active lecturer and consulted with government groups. Unlike many psychologists of the time, he was more interested in the behavior of the general population of people rather than abnormal psychology.

He gained the attention of the federal government for his research. He also sought the attention of the courts and the public by publishing widely and seeking publicity. Following the Lindbergh kidnapping in the 1930s, Marston offered his services to the Lindbergh family.

Psychology, Emotions, and Behavior – Marston's DISC model

In the early 20s Marston's work continued to be significant in the courts and legal system; however, it evolved in 1924 when he first studied the concepts of will and a person's sense of power, and their effect on personality and human behavior. His work in consciousness, colors, primary emotions, and bodily symptoms also contributed greatly to the field of psychology. The picture to the right shows Marston researching Emotions of Normal People, the 1928 book which formally presenting his findings. He published a second book on DISC, Integrative Psychology, in 1931.



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Emotions of Normal People

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DISC came, by design, from Marston's search for measurements of the energy of behavior and consciousness. Marston viewed people behaving along two axes, with their attention being either passive or active, depending on the individual's perception of his or her environment as either favorable or antagonistic. By placing the axes at right angles, four quadrants form with each describing a behavioral pattern.

- Dominance produces activity in an antagonistic environment.
- Inducement produces activity in a favorable environment.
- Steadiness produces passivity in a favorable environment.
- Compliance produces passivity in an antagonistic environment.

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Notes

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1. [^] ^a ^b ^c "Who Was Wonder Woman?"
2. [^] OUR TOWNS; She's Behind the Match For That Man of Steel
3. [^] WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON, THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, AND WONDER WOMAN
4. [^] Committee to Review the Scientific Evidence on the Polygraph (National Research Council (U.S.)), Mark H. Moore, National Research Council (U.S.). Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences, National Research Council (U.S.). Committee on National Statistics, National Research Council (U.S.). Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (2003). *The Polygraph and Lie Detection*. National Academies Press. ISBN 0309084369.
5. [^] Richard, Olive. *Our Women Are Our Future*.
6. [^] Les Daniels, *Wonder Woman: The Complete History*, (DC Comics, 2000), pp. 28-30.
7. [^] Jones, Gerard *Men of Tomorrow* New York: Basic Books 2004, p. 210
8. [^] Quoted in Daniels, *DC Comics Little, Brown and Company*, 1995, p. 58; Goulart, Ron, *Great American Comic Books Publications International*

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William Moulton Marston was a lawyer graduating from Harvard in 1918, and he changed the criminal justice system forever with a machine. He introduced major prison reform. He was a man, and he was America's first feminist in print syndication. He never owned a successful business, but was called upon by industry to consult using the first forms of applied psychology to business. And because of Marston, over 50 million people around the world have benefited by using his DISC model..... Thank you William!

And just a bit more important DISC History

Dr Clark's critical contribution.

Marston did not develop an assessment or test from his model, although Dr Clark did in 1940. It was called the Activity Vector Analysis. Respondents took the assessment twice; first with Least selections and then with Most.

Dr Cleaver's brilliant conversion.

In 1950, Dr Cleaver combined the process of selection, so the assessment only had to be administered once. He constructed it so that one had to choose one out of the four options, producing a "Forced Choice," tool.

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