

Love, Sex, and Close Relationships

PSYC 4342 (SMU-in-Taos) Jan-Term 2017

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Office Hours: by appointment

I am free to meet after class daily.

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Course Description

This course is an overview of the field of the close relationships. We will discuss research and theory in the psychology of close relationships, including several different approaches to the study of relationships (attachment, evolutionary, interdependence, cultural, etc.). We will focus on research related to topics like attraction, relationship development and maintenance, communication, conflict resolution, infidelity, and jealousy.

This class is about research and theory rather than therapy, counseling, or advice. While it may be helpful to sometimes use examples from your personal experiences in discussion, this class is not the appropriate forum to disclose sensitive personal information or to seek guidance regarding your relationships. My training is in experimental social psychology, not clinical practice or therapy. I am not qualified to give advice regarding any individual's personal relationships (and will not attempt to).

Office hours are times that I have set aside to be available for questions, etc. but I will also be available by appointment at other times. Email is usually the best way to get a message to me. If you must miss an exam you must let me know BEFORE the exam. Makeups will be scheduled at instructor's discretion and only with a written excuse. Makeup exams for reasons other than official University absences will be scheduled during scheduled department makeup sessions or by appointment. Things like job schedules, roommate problems, social conflicts, etc. are not valid excuses. If you need to contest an exam score, you have one week from the day the exam was returned to do so. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Student Learning Outcomes

- On an exam, students should be able to define and understand the major research approaches to the scientific study of close relationships, and understand empirical support for those perspectives.
- Students should be able to identify dysfunctional communication approaches, conflict styles, and understand the interrelations between those in the context of close relationships.
- On an exam, students should be able to identify the major topics covered in class and the textbook and understand empirical support for those topics.
- Students should be to understand and apply the relationships material in class discussions.

Books

- Required Textbook: Miller, R. S. (2015) *Intimate Relationships* (7th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. The text is also available online through coursesmart.com.
- Articles available through Blackboard.

Grades

- Attendance in lecture is required. The in-class exams are over material presented in class, so attendance will help your grade. Excessive absences over the semester will result in a drop in points. Creating an atmosphere in class that discourages the participation of others (interrupting or insulting classmates) or interferes with the classroom environment (text messaging, reading the newspaper, talking during class, using a computer for activities unrelated to this class) will also result in a drop in points.
- You will have a midterm exam and a cumulative final exam over the semester. The exams will each count as 150 points towards your grade in the class. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true-false, short answer, and essay questions. Exams will cover both the lecture and textbook presentation of the material so you need to keep up with the reading as well as the lectures.
- In addition to the exams and participation, you will have one short writing assignment and a longer project and presentation. You will get more details later.
- Each exam is worth 150 points, assignments are worth a combined 50 points, and participation is 10 points for a total of 360 points in the class. I do not anticipate accepting extra credit.

Calendar

Date	Time	Part 1	Part 2	Chapter
9	Morning	Introduction, Building Blocks	Research Methods	1, 2
	Afternoon	Attraction	Culture and Attraction	3
10	Morning	Field Trip: Culture and Definitions of Marriage		4
	Afternoon	Social Cognition	Communication	5
11	Morning	Communication	Interdependency	6
	Afternoon	Friendship	Review	7
12	Morning	Midterm		
	Afternoon	Field Trip/Work on Projects		
13	Morning		Love	8
	Afternoon	Sexuality	Place-Making In Relationships	9, Handout
16	Morning	Stresses	Conflict	10
	Afternoon	Power and Violence	Field Trip to IPV Shelter	11, 12
17	Morning	Dissolution	Being Single	13

	Afternoon	Maintain and Repair	Review	14
18	Morning		<i>Presentations</i>	
	Afternoon		<i>Final Exam</i>	

Exam Details

- Exam 1 will cover chapters 1 – 7.
- The final exam will cover chapters 8 – 14 and will include cumulative material.

Letter Grades

Letter	Percentage	Letter	Percentage
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	Below 60

Course Policies

- Changes to the Syllabus: From time to time, I may make changes to the course plan, topics, or other aspects of the course, **including the dates of exams**. These changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for keeping up with announcements of changes and other course business.
- Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. They should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4; an attachment describes the DASS procedures and relocated office.)
- Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)
- Academic Integrity: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course and will be dealt with according to the University's Honor Code. This can include ACADEMIC SABOTAGE (Intentionally taking any action which negatively affects the academic work of another student.); CHEATING (Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.); FABRICATION (Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an

academic exercise.); FACILITATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

(Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of the Honor Code); and PLAGIARISM (Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.) A violation of the Code will result in an F for the course. In addition, the student may also be taken before the Honor Council. If you are unclear about this please see the instructor immediately.

- Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (University Undergraduate Catalogue)
- Any study involving observation of or interaction with human subjects which originates at Southern Methodist University, including a class project, report, or research paper, must be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research and Research-Related Activities. Students should consult with their course instructors early in the course to ascertain if their projects need to be reviewed by the IRB and/or to secure information on appropriate forms and procedures for IRB review. The student's instructor and department chair must sign the application for approval by the IRB.

PSYC 4342 Close Relationships Relationship Guide Book

You will be doing a project that includes a 4-5 page paper (typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font with margins no greater than 1.5 inches) and a 8-10 minute in-class presentation (including time for questions) on a relationship guide book you prepare. The assignment is due on January 18 which is the day you will be doing the in-class presentations. The combined presentation and paper are worth 35 points.

Your task is to develop a relationship guide book that includes information from lecture, the textbook and at least four outside scholarly references (peer reviewed research articles). What six (or more) things do you think people really need to know to make relationships work? How consistent are lay beliefs with the research in psychology? How does culture impact our understanding of and experience in relationships?

You should pick six (or more) aspects of relationships (love, attraction, interdependency, communication, jealousy, etc.) and discuss what an SMU student outside of psychology would need to know about the topic to understand it. You will also need to discuss why it made your list of the six most important pieces of knowledge for your guide book. How consistent are normal everyday beliefs with the research from psychology about your topic?

Presentations and papers will be graded on:

1. Meeting the minimum assignment requirements
2. Clarity of ideas/writing
3. Addressing the overlap between beliefs and research
4. Providing good arguments for including your six selected topics

Individual Project

You will also need to do an individual project worth 15 points. This is a short project involving personal experiences with and expectations about relationships. You will need to complete either: (a) a research article review, (b) a personal investigation of your expectations about relationships (what you expect and where those expectations came from), or (c) a media psychology analysis relating to close relationships. This is due by January 11 at the start of afternoon class.