

Personal Relationships- Hum Dev 483I - Instructor
Course ID # 10524
Fall 2011

Instructor: Denise Bartell
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Office Hours: MW 10-11 am
T 11 am -3 pm
Additional hours available by appointment

Class Meetings: MW 12:45-2:05 p.m.
MAC 204

Prerequisites: Hum Dev 210
Recommended: Junior standing
Foundations of Social Research (Comm Sci 301), Developmental Research Methods (Hum Dev 351 or 302) or Experimental Psychology (Psych 300)

Required Text: Miller, R.S. & Perlman, D. (2009). *Intimate Relationships* (5th Edition). New York, NY: McGraw Hill.
Required Readings: Posted on D2L

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

Course Description

This course is meant to provide an overview of research and theory on the development of and processes in intimate, romantic relationships. Over the course of the next 14 weeks, you will develop a broad overview of the field of personal relationships (including topics such as: attraction, commitment, relationship maintenance, relational dissolution) as well as an in-depth understanding of a variety of subtopics that represent the areas of cutting edge research in the field. These topics include, but are not limited to: the role of biochemistry in attraction, the impact of personal relationships on physical and psychological health, and the effectiveness of education programs to teach information and skills required for healthy intimate relationships. We will use the Miller & Perlman text to provide us with a review of foundational research and theory critical to the field of personal relationships. In addition, we will also complete a variety of primary source readings that represent foundational and/or cutting edge research on critical topics in the field. As such, it will be very helpful, in terms of the ability to successfully complete the requirements for this class, for students to come to the course with a basic understanding of the research methods and statistical techniques used in the social sciences. Although the class will be relatively large, we will engage in interactive class activities and discussions each week.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should:

- Become familiar with the methodology for studying personal relationships.
- Have an understanding of the basic theories and concepts used in the study of personal relationships.
- Learn about the major factors associated with the initiation and maintenance of, satisfaction with, and dissolution of close relationships.
- Become comfortable reading primary sources after reading a selected list of key conceptual and empirical scholarly articles from the field of personal relationships.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Assignments

You are expected to complete all assigned readings **prior to** the day they are covered in class. You also must bring your textbook and a copy of the reading assigned for the day to EVERY CLASS. This is very important because you will be using these materials in your work during class each week.

Out-of-Class Assignments/In-Class Activities/Class Participation

You are expected to **ATTEND EVERY CLASS**, to come to class prepared to discuss the material you have read and to participate fully in all class activities and discussions. Student participation in class is essential in order for us to fulfill the objectives of the course, and, as such, I ask that each student participate in our large class discussions at least once per class.

Over the course of the semester you will be asked to complete a variety of activities in class. If you are not in class on the day an activity is completed, you **will not** have the opportunity to make it up. You will also be asked to complete a few assignments outside of class time. You will be expected to come to class with these assignments completed and to hand them in during that class. If you are not in class on the day the assignment is collected you **will not** receive credit for that assignment.

The number of points you can earn for each activity will vary, depending upon the amount of work required to complete the assignment, among other factors. You will **be able to miss up to 3 points** on these assignments without negatively affecting your activity grade. At the end of the semester, you will receive a grade for activities/participation based upon your cumulative work on the class activities and the quality of your participation in class.
(50 points total)

Exams

Two exams will be given as listed on the course calendar. The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The essay portion will be take-home format, and you will be given the question on the review sheet, and required to bring your completed, type-written response to class on the day of the exam. The final exam will consist of both non-cumulative AND cumulative sections.

All information discussed in lectures, class discussions, guest lectures, readings, and any other material presented in class is fair game for the exams.

You will receive a review sheet approximately one week before each exam. These review sheets are outlines of the material covered on the exam, and are meant to be an organizational tool for your studying. In addition, I am happy to work with you on any material you are having trouble with, so please take advantage of my office hours, send me an email, etc.
(100 points each)

Group Project

Working in a small group to which you will be assigned, you will choose a relationship topic about which you believe it is important to educate college students, and create a mock-up of a web page on this topic for a relationship education website. Further details on this assignment will be discussed in class and are available on D2L.
(50 points)

D2L Page

There is a D2L site for the course, where I will post the syllabus, assignments, readings, exam review sheets, etc. Please check the site regularly, as I will also use it to post class announcements.

GRADING SCHEME:

Class Activities	/ 50 points
Exam 1	/ 100 points
Exam 2	/ 100 points
Group Project	/ 50 points

TOTAL / **300 points**

Final grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A	275– 300 points (91.5-100%)
AB	263–274 points (87.5-91.4%)
B	245–262 points (81.5-87.4%)
BC	233–244 points (77.5-81.4%)
C	215–232 points (71.5-77.4%)
CD	203–214 points (67.5-71.4%)
D	179–202 points (59.5-67.4%)
F	≤ 178 points (59.4% or less)

Classroom Etiquette

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. prior to the beginning of class, and store them off your desks.

Please do not talk to your neighbors during lectures or when other students are talking. It is distracting and disrespectful.

You may use computers to take notes during class. But if, at any point during the semester, I become aware that students are using the computer for non-class-related purposes, I will ban their use in class for the remainder of the semester.

Please limit coming in late and leaving class early. Not only do these things limit your ability to perform successfully in the class, but they are also distracting to fellow classmates and to your professor.

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get copies of them from a classmate. DO NOT ask me for a copy of the notes, I do not provide them to students.

DO NOT pack up your things before the end of class. Doing so is not only distracting and disrespectful to your professor, but it will cause you to miss what goes on during the last few minutes of class, which is often when critical information is presented. We will be working until the end of class every day, but I will make sure to end on time :>)

I expect that you will be respectful, at all times, of the contributions of fellow students. Although it is perfectly acceptable to hold different viewpoints, we want to create an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable sharing their ideas.

Disability Policy

Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities in this class, and any student with a documented disability that requires accommodation should contact the Disability Services Office at 465-2841. If you have any questions about disability services you can contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at 465-2849.

COURSE CALENDAR: Personal Relationships Fall 2011

<i>Week of:</i>	<i>Topic:</i>	<i>Reading Assignment:</i>
9/7	Welcome!	
9/12	Introduction to Personal Relationships & Relationship Science	Chapters 1 & 2
9/19	Attraction	Chapter 3 Ramirez & Zhang, 2007
9/26	Interdependence and Commitment	Chapter 6 Rusbult & Johnson, 1989
10/3	Love	Chapter 8 Fisher, 2000
10/10	Communication	Chapter 5 Gable, Gonzaga & Strachman, 2006
10/17	Social Cognition in Personal Relationships	Chapter 4 Stafford & Merolla, 2007
10/19	<i>Project work time</i>	
10/24	Midterm Exam	
10/26	Sexuality	Chapter 9 MacDonald, Fong, Zanna & Martineau, 2000

10/31	Relational Stress and Conflict	Chapters 10 & 11
11/7	Social Context	Sprecher & Feilmlee, 1992 Morse & Neuberg, 2004 Reiter & Gee, 2008
11/14	Relational Maintenance	Chapter 14 Aron, Norman, Aron, McKenna & Heyman, 2000
11/21	Relationship Dissolution	Chapter 13 Kellas, Bean, Cunningham & Cheng, 2008
11/23	<i>Project work time</i>	
11/28	Same Sex Relationships	Peplau & Fingerhut, 2008 Lehmiller & Agnew, 2007
12/5	Relationship Education	Halford, 2004 Lawrence et al, 2008
12/12	Presentations & Final Wrap-up Group Projects DUE M 12/12!	
Final Exam: Friday, December 16th, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm		

Note: This calendar serves as a guide for the course and is subject to change, with student notification, to meet the needs of the course.