Psychology 443: Interpersonal Relationships Winter, 2016

Instructor: Dr. T. MacDonald

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Office hours: Friday, 2:30 3:30 p.m., or by appointment

Class meets: Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. in Humphrey 223

Friday 1:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. in Humphrey 223

Textbook:

Miller, R. S. (2015). Intimate Relationships (7th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

If you choose to buy an older edition of this textbook, please note that you are responsible for all of the information in the 2015 version.

Description of Course

The study of interpersonal relationships is a fascinating field, certainly one that readily applies to our lives. In this course, I will provide you with a general overview of research and theory in the domain of relationships, based on classic and contemporary findings from the social psychological literature.

We will study how individuals think about and behave in interpersonal relationships. Most of the course content will focus on adult romantic relationships. For example, you will learn about the factors that influence the development of romantic relationships, individual differences that affect how people function in relationships, and typical patterns of conflict in relationships.

This course is <u>research-oriented</u>. You will also learn about the scientific methods used by researchers in

days, the format of the course will be largely lecture-based. I will present information that is relevant to (but not redundant with) the textbook chapter that is being covered that week. I will also hand out a list of discussion questions to assist you with your reading.

- On Fridays, part of the class will be spent finishing up any lecture material that was not covered, and addressing any questions that you may have about the lecture or the readings.
- There will also be an interactive component to the classes on Friday. Each student will be assigned to a group of approx2 t3E42.07 105.38 Tm[F)6(rirhu opieT21 87.38TJople-3(T)TBT 1 40.56 87.384b)To13o(os.384/discuroup 2(

Schedule

It is strongly recommended that you read the assigned chapter <u>before</u> each class--the lectures will be more meaningful if you are familiar with the material to be discussed.

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<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	Reading Assignment
1	January 5 and 8	Building Blocks of Relationships	Chapter 1
2	January 12 and 15 $^{\parallel}$	Research Methods	Chapter 2
3	January 19 and 22	Interpersonal Attraction	Chapter 3
4	January 26	Social Cognition (no class on Jan. 29)	Chapter 4
5	February 2 and 5 $^{\parallel}$	Interdependency	Chapter 6
6	February 9 and 12	Communication	Chapter 5
7	February 16 and 19	Reading week (no classes)	
8	February 23 and 26*	Friendships	Chapter 7 (up to p. 232)
9	March 1 and 4	Loneliness	Chapter 7 (p. 232 on)
10	March 8 and 11	Love and Sexuality	Chapters 8 & 9
11	March 15 and 18	Conflict	Chapter 11
12	March 22		
13	March 29 and April 1 G		

Description of Grading System

1. Participation in Friday Classes:

In the Thursday classes, students will be expected to participate in the group discussion, activities, and role-plays. Your participation in these activities will be worth 5% of your final grade.

2. Class Assignments:

Three of the class assignments will require a written summary. The first assignment is a summary of an article, and is worth 2.5%. The second assignment requires reading two articles and writing a two-page thought paper, and is worth 5%. The final assignment is a case study, requiring a short paper and a presentation to the class, and is worth 7.5%. This final assignment will be handed in as a group: In this case, each member of the group will receive the same grade.

3. Research Proposal:

The major assignment for this course will be to formulate a research question after your reading of a specific area in the relationship literature. This assignment should be approximately 10-12 typed, double-spaced pages. Your paper (and references) should adhere to APA style.

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Grade	Numerical Course Average	
A+	90-100	
Α	85-89	
A-	80-84	
B+	77-79	
В	73-76	
B-	70-72	
C+	67-69	
С	63-66	
C-	60-62	
D+	57-59	
D	53-56	
D-	50-52	
F	49 and below	

Statement on Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report

http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensu/F7 12 (of a)thanf ideas" essu/F7 12 (of a)thanf ideare re o8@01 rbA0.47are 432.07(e)4(s497.83).