



Department of Psychology
Psychology 443 (L01) – Interpersonal Relationships
Winter 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Dr. S. D. Boon	Lecture Location:	SH 274
Phone:	403-220-5564	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 11:00- 11:50
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Office:	A231B		
Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description and Goals

Application of social psychological theory and methodology to a variety of topics in the area of interpersonal relationships such as: attraction, close relationships, interpersonal conflict, communication, and power. Course projects will be an integral part of the course.

Learning Objectives

The aim of this course is to survey a wide range of areas of study within the field of interpersonal relationships. By the end of the course you should:

1. Possess an increased understanding of the diversity of interpersonal relationships and their multifaceted nature.
2. Understand the major theoretical frameworks that have been used to explain the phenomena that researchers have investigated in this area.
3. Be familiar with the types of research questions and research designs common in studies in this area, as well as be able to critique research findings on relationship topics that you encounter in the media and elsewhere.

Note: this course covers material of a potentially sensitive nature (i.e., experiences of divorce, relationship violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault, etc.). You should feel comfortable refraining from commenting on any issue that you find upsetting. However, *all material* will be considered suitable for examination purposes.

Prerequisites

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods

PSYC 345 – Social Psychology

Required Text (available at the Bookstore)

Miller, R. S., Perlman, D., & Brehm, S. S. (2009). Intimate Relationships, 5th. Ed.

Additional readings are required for two of the hot topics discussions and for the group presentations. You may borrow these readings from me at my office for photocopying at your

own expense. I will also attempt to locate online versions for as many of these articles as I can find (some of them may not be available online) and post these on blackboard.

Evaluation

Weight	Course Component	Due Date
10%	culture comparison paper	Due beginning of class Jan. 29, 2010
30%	group presentation	In class throughout term (usually Fridays)
30%	paper	Due beginning of class March 25, 2010
30%	final exam (take-home, essay format, and cumulative)	Questions posted April 16, 2010 Answers due April 23, 2010 by 4:00 p.m. to A275 (Psych Office)

Culture Comparison Assignment

You will write a brief 3-page paper comparing Western conceptualizations of love and marriage with conceptualizations of love and marriage as portrayed in one or more Hindi films (as assigned in class). The paper is due January 29, 2010 at the **beginning** of class. Late papers (including those handed in after the class has started) will be subject to a 10% penalty per day (including a 10% penalty over weekends). See Blackboard for more details.

Group Presentations & “Hot Topic” Discussions

As a general rule, Fridays will be devoted to group presentations (except on occasions when guest speakers present). However, to ensure that the first group has time to prepare their presentation, I will use the first three presentation time slots for discussions of “hot topics” in the field of close relationships research. The first presentation (group #1) will thus be February 5. *Groups who present early will be graded more leniently than those presenting later to compensate for having less time to prepare* (and fewer “models” of what can be done and what “works” for this assignment). Should one or more of the group members be ill on the date of the presentation, thus compromising the group’s ability to present, arrangements (e.g., rescheduling or other possibilities) will be determined on a case by basis via consultation between group members and the instructor. See Blackboard for more details about the group presentation assignment.

Paper

A 5-page paper is due March 26, 2010 at the **beginning** of class. Late papers (including those handed in after the class has started) will be subject to a 10% penalty per day (including a 10% penalty over weekends). See Blackboard for more details.

Take-Home Essay Final Exam

The essay-format final exam will be **cumulative** in nature. You may expect questions based on all aspects of the course including readings, the text, discussions, lectures, group presentations, and guest lectures (as applicable). I may give you some choice as to the essay questions you answer. Questions will be posted on Blackboard no later than the last day of classes (April 16, 2010). Answers will be due at the Main Psychology Office (A275) no later than 4:00 April 23, 2010. **Late exams will not be accepted.**

Electronic submission of assignments/exam papers

E-mailed assignments will NOT be accepted. Written assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class. Late assignments may be handed in at the Psychology Office, A 275 (after hours, the green box outside this office). Late assignments will be assessed a penalty as described above (10% per day, including 10% over weekends). Early assignments may be handed in to the same locations as late assignments (but will of course not be assessed a penalty).

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.)."

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Note: Chapter #s are based on the 4th edition. I don't have a copy of the 5th edition at this time.

Date	Topic	Chapters/Readings/ Videos
Jan 11 - 15	Lecture: Introduction & Research Methods Hot Topic Discussion: Relationships in the Past A discussion of marriage, sex, and parent-child relationships during the middle ages. CULTURE COMPARISON ASSIGNMENT: Watch any one of the 4 assigned Hindi films and be prepared to discuss it in class January 29. Culture comparison paper due in class on that date, as well.	Miller ch. 1, 2 Videos: Bewafaa, Kisna, Veer-Zara, Devdas
Jan 18 - 22	Lecture: Attraction Hot Topic Discussion: Mate Selection & Personal Ads Bring examples of personals ads from the newspaper or web. Be prepared to analyze them in terms of the "social commodities" that women and men are seeking in a mate and offering to a mate.	Miller ch. 3 Article: <i>Sexual strategies theory: Historical origins and current status.</i> (Buss)
Jan 22	Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.	
Jan 25 - 29	Lecture: Love Video: Arranged Marriages Hot Topic Discussion: Culture and Love/Marriage.	Miller ch. 8

	CULTURE COMPARISON ASSIGNMENT DUE BEGINNING OF CLASS JAN. 29	
T Jan 26	Last day for registration/change of registration.	
Feb 1 - 5	<p>Lecture: Social Cognition</p> <p>Each group will be responsible for reading one article from the assigned readings (TBA) and preparing a brief, informal presentation as part of a discussion of the importance of relationships for understanding cognition, emotion, and behaviour. Preparation will take place in class on Monday. The discussion will take place on Wednesday.</p> <p>Group 1 presents: Implicit theories of relationships</p>	<p>TBA (see Blackboard) Miller ch. 4</p> <p>Article: <i>Implicit theories of relationships: Assessment and prediction of romantic relationship initiation, coping and longevity.</i> (Knee)</p>
Feb 8 – 12	<p>Lecture: Communication</p> <p>Group 2 presents: Flirtation.</p> <p>500 WORD SUMMARY FOR PAPER DUE FEB. 12</p>	<p>Miller ch. 5</p> <p>Article: <i>Perceiving flirtatious communication: An exploration of the perceptual dimensions underlying judgments of flirtatiousness</i> (Abrahams)</p>
M Feb 15	Reading Days. No lectures.	
W Feb 17	Reading Days. No lectures.	
F Feb 19	Reading Days. No lectures.	
Feb 22 - 26	<p>Lecture: Friendship</p> <p>Group 3 presents: Same-sex friendships.</p>	<p>Miller ch. 7</p> <p>Article: <i>Re-examining gender differences in same gender friendships: A close look at two kinds of data.</i> (Duck & Wright)</p>
Mar 1 – 5	<p>Lecture: Stresses and Strains</p> <p>Group 4 presents: Deception.</p> <p>250 WORD SUMMARY FOR PAPER DUE MAR 5</p>	<p>Miller ch. 10</p> <p>Article: <i>Deception in romantic relationships: Subjective estimates of success at deceiving and attitudes toward deception.</i> (Boon & McLeod)</p>
Mar 8 – 12	Lecture: Power	Miller ch. 11

	<p>Sexual harassment officer presents to class Mar. 10</p> <p>Video (Mar. 12): Spin The Bottle: Sex, Lies & Alcohol</p>	
Mar 15 - 19	<p>Lecture: Interdependency</p> <p>Group 5 presents: Allocation of household tasks.</p>	<p>Miller ch. 6</p> <p>Article: <i>The allocation of household labor in gay, lesbian, and heterosexual married couples.</i> (Kurdek)</p>
Mar 22 - 26	<p>Lecture: Conflict and Violence</p> <p>Group 6 presents: Conflict.</p> <p>PAPERS DUE BEGINNING OF CLASS MAR 26</p>	<p>Miller ch. 12</p> <p>Article: <i>Relationship conflict</i> (Canary & Messman)</p>
Mar 29 - 31	<p>Lecture: Sexuality</p> <p>Guest presentation on sexuality (CRHA: Heather Cobb) (tentative)</p>	<p>Miller ch. 13</p>
F Apr 2	<p>Good Friday. No lectures. University closed.</p>	
Apr 5 –9	<p>Lecture: Dissolution and Loss</p> <p>Group 7 presents: Divorce.</p>	<p>Miller ch. 13</p> <p>Article: <i>*Dan Quayle was right</i> (Whitehead)</p>
Apr 12 - 16	<p>Lecture: Loneliness/Fostering Relationships</p> <p>Group 8 presents: Artificial Social Relationships.</p> <p>FINAL EXAM POSTED APRIL 16 (TAKE HOME)</p>	<p>Miller ch. 14, 15</p> <p>Article: <i>Imaginary relationships: An exploratory study of celebrity-admirer relationships.</i> (Boon & Lomore)</p>
R Apr 15	<p>Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits</p>	
F Apr 16	<p>Winter Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.</p>	
April 23	<p>Final exams due at the main psych office no later than 4:00 pm April 23, 2010</p>	

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the

department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two (2) credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>

The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 15, 2010**.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic:	Phone: 403-220-3911	suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.:	Phone: 403-220-3913	socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates:

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Jan 22nd, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Jan 26th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 16th, 2010**.