



Department of Psychology
Psychology 443 (L01) – Interpersonal Relationships
Fall 2011 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Dr. Susan D. Boon	Lecture Location:	EDC 287
Phone:	403-220-5564	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 10:00 – 10:50
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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.

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, for some of the group presentations, and for the social cognition week. You may borrow these readings from me at my office for photocopying at your own expense or you may acquire them online, when possible. I will provide full citations on Blackboard for those readings that are available online.

Evaluation

Course Component	Weighting	Date
Culture comparison	25%	Due beginning of class September 30, 2011
Group presentation	25%	Fridays, in class throughout term
Paper	25%	Due beginning of class November 18, 2011
Final exam	25%	Due in A275 on Dec. 16, 2011 by 3:30 pm

Culture Comparison Assignment

You will write a brief 3-page (maximum) 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 September, 30 2011 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 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 adequate time to prepare their presentation, I will use the first three Fridays for discussions of “hot topics” in the field of close relationships research. The first presentation (group #1) will thus be October 7. *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 case basis via consultation between group members and the instructor. See Blackboard for more details about the group presentation assignment.

Paper

A 5-page (maximum) paper is due November 18, 2011 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 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 (December 9, 2011). Answers will be due at the Main Psychology Office (A275) no later than 3:30 December 16, 2011. **Late exams will be subject to a 10% penalty per day, including weekends.**

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 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 at 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 (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date	Chapters/Readings/Videos (optional)
Sep 12 - 16	Lectures begin. 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 September 30. Culture comparison paper due in class on that date, as well.	Miller, Ch. 1 and 2 Videos: Bewafaa, Kisna, Veer-Zara, Devdas
Sep 19 - 23	Lecture: Attraction Hot Topic Discussion: Mate Selection & Personal Ads Bring examples of personals ads from the newspaper, web, or other medium. 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)
F Sep 23	Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.	
M Sep 26	Last day for registration/change of registration.	

Sep 26 - 30	<p>Lecture: Love</p> <p>Video: Arranged Marriages</p> <p>Hot Topic Discussion: Culture and Love/Marriage. Come prepared to discuss your reactions to the Arranged Marriages video and your thoughts about cultural differences in love as discussed in your culture comparison paper.</p> <p>CULTURE COMPARISON ASSIGNMENT DUE BEGINNING OF CLASS Sept. 30</p>	Miller, Ch. 8
Oct 3 - 7	<p>Lecture: Social Cognition</p> <p>In class exercise: Each group will read one or more articles from the assigned readings (see Blackboard) and prepare 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>
M Oct 10	Thanksgiving Day. No lecture. University closed.	
Oct 12 - 14	<p>Lecture: Communication</p> <p>Group 2 presents: Flirtation.</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 Oct 17 - 21	<p>Lecture: Friendship</p> <p>Group 3 presents: Cross-sex friendships.</p>	<p>Miller ch. 7</p> <p>Article: <i>The challenge of sexual attraction within heterosexual's cross-sex friendship</i> (Halatsis & Christakis)</p>
Oct 24 - 28	<p>Lecture: Stresses and Strains</p> <p>In class exercise: Relationships and Health. Each group will identify one journal article describing the results of research investigating the link</p>	<p>Miller ch. 10</p> <p>Article: <i>The tangled web: Delinquency, deception,</i></p>

	<p>between a specific physical or mental illness, disability, or disease and prepare a brief, informal summary of the key findings and conclusions. The goal is to create an opportunity to understand some of the connections between relationships and health and wellbeing. Groups will discuss the articles among themselves and compose their summaries in class on Monday and present their summaries as part of a class discussion on Wednesday.</p> <p>Group 4 presents: Deception.</p>	<p><i>and parental attachment.</i> (Warr)</p>
Oct 31 – Nov 4	<p>Lecture: Power</p> <p>In class exercise: Debate on “Britni and Jonathon” (For Your Consideration, p. 384). Come prepared to debate the role of power in romantic relationships, working from the scenario on p. 384. (Oct. 31).</p> <p>Sexual harassment officer presents Nov. 2.</p> <p>Video (Nov. 4): Spin The Bottle: Sex, Lies & Alcohol</p>	Miller ch. 12
Nov 7 - 9	<p>Lecture: Sexuality</p> <p>Guest presentation on sexual and reproductive health (CRHA: Heather Cobb) Nov. 9</p>	Miller, ch. 9
F Nov 11	Reading days. Remembrance Day. No lecture.	
Nov 14 - 18	<p>Lecture: Interdependency</p> <p>Group 5 presents: Allocation of household tasks.</p> <p><i>PAPERS DUE BEGINNING OF CLASS NOV 18</i></p>	<p>Miller, ch. 6</p> <p>Article: <i>The allocation of household labor by partners in gay and lesbian couples (Kurdek)</i></p>
Nov 21 - 25	<p>Lecture: Conflict and Violence</p> <p>Group 6 presents: Conflict.</p>	<p>Miller ch. 11</p> <p>Article: <i>Drinking to regulate negative romantic relationship interactions: The moderating role of self-esteem (DeHart, Tennen, Armeli, Todd & Affleck)</i></p>
Nov 28 – Dec 2	Lecture: Dissolution and Loss	Miller ch. 13

	Group 7 presents: Divorce.	Article: <i>Dan Quayle was right</i> (Whitehead)
Dec 5 - 9	Lecture: Fostering Relationships Group 8 presents: Artificial Social Relationships FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS POSTED ON BLACKBOARD	Miller, ch. 14 Article: Imaginary relationships: An exploratory study of celebrity-admirer relationships (Boon & Lomore)
F Dec 9	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.	
F Dec 9	Lecture ends. Last day to withdraw.	
F Dec 16	FINAL EXAMS DUE BY 3:30 IN A275	

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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

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 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 **Dec 9th, 2011**.

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 **Sep 23rd, 2011**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Sep 26th, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 9th, 2011**.