Psychology 443: Interpersonal Relationships
Winter, 2014

Instructor: Dr. T. MacDonald
Office: Craine 305
Phone: 533-2873
Email: tmacdon@ queensu.ca
Office hours: Thursday, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., or by appointment
Class meets: Monday, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Humphrey 223
                      Thursday, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. in Humphrey 223

Textbook:

Miller, R. S. (2012). Intimate Relationships (6th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

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 research-oriented. You will also learn about the scientific methods used by researchers in social psychology to conduct valid research. It is my hope that you will be able to use this knowledge of research methods to be able to critically evaluate studies that you read about in scholarly journals, or hear about in the news.

Format

- On Mondays, 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 Thursdays, 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 Thursday. Each student will be assigned to a group of approximately five people. There will be group discussions, group activities, and group assignments, one of which will also require a written component.
- Some activities will be in-class, and others will be homework activities.

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.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
1	January 6 and 9	Building Blocks of Relationships	Chapter 1
2	January 13 and 16$^{\surd\textbf{I}}$	Research Methods	Chapter 2
3	January 20 and 23	Interpersonal Attraction	Chapter 3
4	January 27 and 30	Social Cognition	Chapter 4
5	February 3 and 6$^{\surd\textbf{I}}$	Interdependency	Chapter 6
6	February 10 and 13♣	Communication	Chapter 5
7	February 17 and 20	Reading Week: No Classes	
8	February 24 and 27*	Friendships	Chapter 7 (up to p. 230)
9	March 3 and 6	Loneliness	Chapter 7 (p. 230 on)
10	March 10 and 13	Love and Sexuality	Chapters 8 & 9
11	March 17 and 20$^{\Delta}$	Conflict	Chapter 11
12	March 24 and 27	Jealousy and Power/Violence	Chapters 10 & 12
13	March 31 and April 3$^{\surd\textbf{G}}$	Dissolution/Repairing of Relationships	Chapters 13 & 14

♣ There will be no class on February 13, as I am away at a conference

* Midterm examination

$^{\Delta}$ Research Proposal due: There will be a late penalty of one point (out of 30) per day overdue.

$^{\surd\textbf{I}}$ Individual assignments due (will be assigned at least one week in advance)

$^{\surd\textbf{G}}$ Group assignment due (will be assigned two weeks in advance)

Grading System

1.	Participation in Thursday classes	5%
2.	Class Assignments (3 assignments, see next page for description)	15%
3.	Research Paper (due on March 20)	30%
4.	Midterm Examination (February 27)	25%
5.	Final Examination (during final examination period)	<u>25%</u>
		100%

Description of Grading System

1. Participation in Thursday Classes:
In the Thurday 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.

Your research proposal should include:
a) an introduction to your topic and a literature review
b) an original research question, based on your readings in the area
c) your hypotheses for the research question, and the **rationale for your hypotheses**
d) a <u>brief</u> description of the methodology that you would use to test your hypotheses
e) a discussion of the value of your research question, and its potential implications

Your research proposal can be based on any area within the relationships literature. Please note that although you are free (and encouraged) to discuss your ideas with other members of your group, or other classmates for feedback, your research question must be <u>your own</u> (i.e., this is an individual assignment). <u>Also, I encourage each of you to make an appointment with me after you have an initial idea about your research question</u>. I will be happy to help you formulate your question, suggest sources for background research, and make sure that you are on the "right track". I realize that the process of generating an original research question can be daunting, but it is also an exciting process, and a challenging one. I hope that you will enjoy the task of forming your question--this is the most critical task for any researcher. Who knows--your research question may turn in to a great honours thesis or doctoral dissertation!

4. and 5. Examinations: There are two exams. The marking scheme for each is as follows:

<u>Part A</u>. Ten multiple choice questions, @ 1 mark   = 10 marks.

<u>Part B</u>. Five short answer questions, @ 2 marks   = 10 marks

<u>Part C</u>. One short essay question worth 5 marks   = 5 marks

Please not the following points regarding examinations:

Midterm: If you are unable to write the midterm examination, a medical certificate (or other relevant documentation) will be required. In such cases, the final examination will be worth 50% of your grade.

Final: The final exam is non-cumulative (i.e., the content will focus on the second half of course material).

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, as follows:

Grade	Numerical Course Average
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	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 at http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/2011-2012-calendar/academic-regulations/regulation-1), on the Arts and Science website (http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Copyright of Course Materials:

This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in Psychology 443. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in Psychology 443. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Disability Accommodations

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/