

Interpersonal Relations
Psychology 354, Winter 2008
Mon & Wed 10:30 – 11:50am
Arts Lecture Hall 208

Prof :
Dr. Grainne Fitzsimons
Office : PAS 3052
Office Hour : M 12-1pm
(or by appointment)

TA:
Jennifer McClellan
Office: PAS 3240D
Office Hour: W 2:30-3:30
(or by appointment)

TA:
Daniel Nadolny
Office: PAS 3050
Office Hour: M 1pm – 2pm
(or by appointment)

Email: psych354@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

Text:

Brehm, Miller, Perlman, & Campbell's *Intimate Relationships*, 4th edition (2006).

Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to research on adult romantic relationships. Our analysis will be social psychological, and will thus emphasize the empirical study of relationships (meaning we will talk about experiments a lot). The textbook is broad, while the lectures will tend to cover more specific issues, especially recent approaches.

Requirements:

- 1) **Tests:** There will be three in-class tests, and NO final exam. Each test will cover all material from the text, videos, and lectures from the period leading up to the test (note: the lecture before Test 1 and Test 2 will be included in the following test). Tests are **not** cumulative. They will primarily be multiple-choice, but will also have a short answer component. The first test is on Jan 30th, and is worth 30%. The second test is on Mar 10th and is worth 30%. The third test is on Apr 7th and is worth 25%.
- 2) **Written Assignment:** You will be given a set of short written descriptions of scenes from relationships, and your task will be to analyze these relationships using material learned in class. This assignment must be prepared independently, with no collaboration. This paper is to be 500 words max – that is two pages (double-spaced, standard Times New Roman 12pt font). The assignment is due Feb 13th: Please give me your papers in class or drop them off in my mailbox in PAS (3rd Floor) before 5pm. Papers will NOT be accepted by email.

Notes/Policies:

- 1) **ACE:** Please regularly visit the class website on ACE. We will post announcements, grades, slides, etc.
- 2) **Attendance:** To succeed, attend 100% of the lectures. Tests will be approximately 60% lecture material, and I will present a great deal of material not covered in your textbook.
- 3) **Missing Exams:** Students may take a make-up exam if (a) they inform me *in advance* that they will be unable to take the exam for legitimate reasons and (b) they obtain *written, verifiable evidence* of medical problems. The make-up exam may be different from the one taken by the rest of the class.
- 4) **Late Assignments:** No late assignments will be accepted. There will be no exceptions to this policy.
- 5) **Grade Appeals:** If you feel that your grade was mistaken, you may submit a written appeal in class (not over email) within one week of the date the assignment was first handed back. I will review the appeal and if necessary, issue a new grade (lower or higher than the original, depending on my opinion).

“Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult Policy #71 (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to “group

work” and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. You may also consult the “Avoiding Academic Offenses” website at http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

Tentative Schedule of Classes

Date	Topic	Textbook
Jan 7	L1: Introduction	Ch 1
Jan 9	L2: Attraction & First Impressions 1	Ch 3
Jan 14	L3: Attraction & First Impressions 2	<i>Ch 3</i>
Jan 16	L4: Relational Cognition 1	Ch 4
Jan 21	L5: Relational Cognition 2	<i>Ch 4</i>
Jan 23	L6: Attachment Theory	p. 261-268
Jan 28	L7: Love & Intimacy	Ch 8
Jan 30	Test 1	
Feb 4	L8: Social Exchange Theories	Ch 6
Feb 6	<i>No Class (Prof Away)</i>	
Feb 11	L9: Interdependence & Commitment 1	<i>Ch 6</i>
Feb 13	L10: Interdependence & Commitment 2 Assignment Due by 5pm	<i>Ch 6</i>
Feb 18 & 20	<i>No Class (Reading Week)</i>	
Feb 25	L11: Communication	Ch 5
Feb 27	L12: Sexuality 1	Ch 9
Mar 3	Video (will be on test, no alternate dates)	
Mar 5	L13: Sexuality 2	<i>Ch 9</i>
Mar 10	Test 2	---
Mar 12	L14: Jealousy & Betrayal	Ch 10
Mar 17	L15: Power & Deception	Ch 11
Mar 19	<i>No Class (Prof Away)</i>	
Mar 24	L16: Conflict & Divorce	p. 361-375; Ch 13
Mar 26	L17: Loneliness & Social Support	p. 432-453
Mar 31	Video (will be on test, no alternate dates)	---
Apr 2	L18: Relationship Maintenance	---
Apr 7	Test 3	

