

Interpersonal Relations
Psychology 354, Winter 2006
Mon & Wed 10:30 – 11:50am
Arts Lecture Hall 208

Professor:
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Contact Information:

To contact us, email: psych354@watarts.uwaterloo.ca. All three of us have access to this account, and will check it regularly. If you email us at our regular accounts, we will do our best to get back to you, but we strongly recommend you use this account for fast response.

Text:

Brehm, Miller, Perlman, & Campbell's *Intimate Relationships*, 3rd edition (2002).

Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to research on close relationships, particularly adult romantic relationships. Our primary 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 and general, while the lectures will tend to cover more specific issues, especially recent experimental and theoretical 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. Tests are not cumulative. They will primarily be multiple-choice, but the first two tests will also have a short written component. The first two tests are each worth 30%, the third test is worth 25%. The tests are on Jan 30, Mar 8, and Apr 3.
- 2) **Written Assignment:** You will be given a short written description of a relationship, and your task will be to analyze this relationship using material learned in this class. This paper is to be 500 words max – that is two pages (double-spaced, standard Times New Roman 12pt font). Papers that go past this limit will not be read and will receive a zero. The assignment is due Feb 15: 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. Any papers submitted by email will be ignored.

Notes/Policies:

- 1) **ACE:** Please regularly visit the class website on ACE. We will post announcements, grades, etc. I will do my best (no guarantees) to post my lecture slides by 5pm the day before lecture to help you with your note-taking, although I recommend that you take your own notes (research is definitive: People show much greater memory for material when they take their own notes).
- 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 and expand on important points in the text. Trust me, my slides will not make sufficient sense on their own...
- 3) **Missing Exams:** I expect all students to be present for exams. Students may take a make-up exam if (a) they inform me *in advance* that they will be unable to take the scheduled exam and (b) they obtain *written, verifiable evidence* of medical problems or other extreme circumstances. The make-up exam may be a different exam from the one taken by the rest of the class. Any students who miss an exam without making prior arrangements and without providing *documented justification* will receive a mark of zero for that exam. There will be no exceptions to this policy.
- 4) **Late Assignments:** No late assignments will be accepted. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Any late assignments will be given a mark of zero.
- 5) **Grade Appeals:** If you feel strongly that your grade on an exam or assignment was unfair or mistaken, you must submit a written appeal to the instructor or one of the teaching assistants within one week of the date the assignment was first handed back. Your appeal must describe a) which item is in question and b) your reason for appealing. The instructor will review the appeal and if necessary, issue a new grade (which can be lower or higher than the original, depending on my opinion).
- 6) **Cell phone policy:** Ringing cell phones are a disruption during lecture, as is leaving the room to accept a cell phone call during class (even if the ringer is off). Cell phones must be turned off during lectures.

Schedule of Classes

Week	Date	Topic	Textbook
1	Jan 4	Introduction	Ch. 1
2	Jan 9	Attraction & First Impressions 1	Ch 3
	Jan 11	Attraction & First Impressions 2	<i>Ch 3</i>
3	Jan 16	Relational Cognition 1	Ch 4
	Jan 18	Relational Cognition 2	<i>Ch 4</i>
4	Jan 23	Attachment Theory	p. 235-239
	Jan 25	Love & Intimacy (Guest Lecture)	Ch 8
5	Jan 30	Social Exchange Theories (not on test 1)	Ch 6
	Feb 1	Test 1	
6	Feb 6	Interdependence & Commitment 1	<i>Ch 6</i>
	Feb 8	Interdependence & Commitment 2	<i>Ch 6</i>
7	Feb 13	Communication	Ch 5
	Feb 15	Video (will be on exam, no alternate dates) Assignment Due by 5pm	
8	Feb 20 & 22	No Classes (Reading Week)	
9	Feb 27	Sexuality 1	Ch 9
	Mar 1	Sexuality 2	<i>Ch 9</i>
10	Mar 6	Jealousy & Betrayal (not on test 2)	Ch 10
	Mar 8	Test 2	
11	Mar 13	Video (will be on exam, no alternate dates)	
	Mar 15	Power	Ch 11
12	Mar 20	Conflict & Dissolution 1	Ch 12 & 13
	Mar 22	Conflict & Dissolution 2	<i>Ch 12 & 13</i>
13	Mar 27	Loneliness & Social Support	Ch 14
	Mar 29	Relationship Seeking & Maintenance	Ch 15
14	Apr 3	Test 3	

Note: Ch 2 and Ch 7 are NOT assigned. If you aren't at ease with research methods, read Ch 2.