

Interpersonal Relations

Psychology 354, Winter 2007

Mon & Wed 10:30 – 11:50am

Arts Lecture Hall 208

Professor:

Dr. Gráinne Fitzsimons

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Contact Information:

To contact Dr. Fitzsimons, email: psych354@watarts.uwaterloo.ca. I will check it regularly, whereas I likely won't or respond to email to my regular account.

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 close relationships, specifically, 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 test is on Jan 29th, and is worth 30%. The second test is on Mar 7th and is worth 30%. The third test is on Apr 2 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 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 receive a zero. The assignment is due Feb 14th: 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 receive a zero.

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 as much as possible (research is definitive: People show much greater memory 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.
- 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 in class (not over email) 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. I 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.

Proposed Schedule of Classes

Week	Date	Topic	Textbook
1	Jan 3	L1: Introduction	Ch 1
2	Jan 8	L2: Attraction & First Impressions 1	Ch 3
	Jan 10	L3: Attraction & First Impressions 2	<i>Ch 3</i>
3	Jan 15	L4: Relational Cognition 1	Ch 4
	Jan 17	L5: Relational Cognition 2	<i>Ch 4</i>
4	Jan 22	L6: Attachment Theory	p. 261-268
	Jan 24	L7: Love & Intimacy	Ch 8
5	Jan 29	Test 1	---
	Jan 31	L8: Social Exchange Theories	Ch 6
6	Feb 5	L9: Interdependence & Commitment 1	<i>Ch 6</i>
	Feb 7	L10: Interdependence & Commitment 2	<i>Ch 6</i>
7	Feb 12	L11: Communication	Ch 5
	Feb 14	L12: Sexuality 1 Assignment Due by 5pm	Ch 9
8	Feb 19, 21, & 26	No Classes (Reading Week; Prof away)	---
9	Feb 28	Video (will be on test, no alternate dates)	---
10	Mar 5	L13: Sexuality 2	<i>Ch 9</i>
	Mar 7	Test 2	---
11	Mar 12	L14: Jealousy & Betrayal	Ch 10
	Mar 14	L15: Power & Deception	Ch 11
12	Mar 19	L16: Conflict & Divorce	p. 361-375; Ch 13
	Mar 21	L17: Loneliness & Social Support	p. 432-453
13	Mar 26	Video (will be on test, no alternate dates)	---
	Mar 28	L18: Relationship Maintenance	---
14	Apr 2	Test 3	---

Note: If you aren't at ease with research methods, read Ch 2.