

Year: Summer 2011

Course Title: FMST 314 – 921 Development of Relationships

Course Schedule: T/Th 600-8:45; May 9 – June 17

Location: Buch A 202

Instructor: Silvia Bartolic

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Teaching Assistant: TBA

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Course Description (from calendar): This course is an empirically based introduction to the study of the development of close relationships. It examines how relationships begin, grow, and decline and secondarily examines the development of relationships across the lifespan. Both theory and research are emphasized.

Course Aim and Objectives

Aim: The purpose of this course is to prepare students to be critically reflective and analytical in evaluating and applying theories and current literature/issues involved in personal relationships over the life cycle.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course it is expected that students will be able to:

1. apply the principles/ideas of the following positions: attachment, cognitive consistency, equity, evolutionary psychology, interdependence, and reinforcement theories.
2. detect patterns and compare and contrast various viewpoints provided in the literature on personal relationships.
3. develop critical, analytical, and methodological skills.
4. appreciate how the literature and issues relate to the development of their own personal relationships.

This course is concerned with 'normal' rather than pathological relationships. It is also an academic course rather than an applied 'how to' course trying to give practical skills. The primary goal is to help students analyze and understand relationships. This knowledge may be of some help in forming and maintaining successful relationships but this is not the main objective.

Prerequisites and/or Course Restrictions (from calendar): Students are expected to have an introductory course in either Family Studies, Psychology, or Sociology.

Format of the course: The format of the course will be lectures with class discussion and some possible group exercises. I strongly believe students learn in a variety of ways and that students can learn as much from each other as from the instructor through the exchange of ideas and by building on those ideas through collaboration. My role is to help you learn new information and to help you learn to apply that information in various contexts. Lectures therefore, will have interactive components in them to facilitate your learning of the materials (as opposed to memorization and regurgitation of the materials). However, I am constrained somewhat by the class size and amount of time we have to cover the course material. Therefore, the success of these activities will depend on you. Classroom discussion is an important part of this course and you will be expected to share your ideas and opinions. Regular attendance is expected. I urge you to make the most of your learning experience!

Required Reading:**Required text:**

Miller, R., & Perlman, D. (2009). *Intimate Relationships* (5th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

Required readings (available in Koerner library on reserve or through UBC e-journals).

- Baumeister, R. F., & Leary, M. R. (1995). The need to belong: Desire for interpersonal attachments as a fundamental human motivation. *Psychological Bulletin*, 117, 497-529.
- Hazan, C., & Shaver, P. R. (1994). Attachment as an organizational framework for research on close relationships. *Psychological Inquiry*, 5, 1-22.
- Buss, D. M., Shackelford, T. K., Kirkpatrick, L. E., & Larsen, R. J. (2001). A half century of mate preferences: The cultural evolution of values. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63, 491-504.
- Felmlee, D. H. (2001). From appealing to appalling: Disenchantment with a romantic partner. *Sociological Perspectives*, 44, 263-280.
- Aron, E. N., & Aron, A. (1996). Love and expansion of the self: The state of the model. *Personal Relationships*, 3, 45-58.
- Peplau, L. A. (2003). Human sexuality: How do men and women differ? *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 12, 37-40.
- Kurdek, L. A. (2005). What do we know about gay and lesbian couples? *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 14, 251-254.
- Sex without Strings, Relationships Without Rings*. National Marriage Project
<http://marriage.rutgers.edu/Publications/pubsexwostrings.htm>
- Gottman, J., & Silver, N. (1994, March/April). What makes marriage work. *Psychology Today*. Available on line:
<http://cms.psychologytoday.com/articles/pto-19940301-000022.html>
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Course Assignments, Due dates and Grading:

Mid-term examination: (May 26)	30%
Paper assignment (June 2)	30%
Final exam (June 16)	40%

Participation: During the term, I may ask you to engage in short participatory learning activities in conjunction with our classes. There will also be opportunities to participate via questions and comments in class. I will give participation credits to students who stand out in this regard.

Exams: Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, true/false, fill in the blank and essay questions. Exams will cover the text, readings, and lecture materials, with the text being the biggest source of questions. Lectures and the text will partially overlap (but not completely). The final exam will primarily focus on the material covered after the mid-term exam but there will be a portion of the final exam dealing with the overarching theories/patterns of the course.

Beyond learning specific facts presented in the text and lectures, you should strive to see a broader picture of relationship development over the life course. As you work through the course, you should be developing your critical, analytical, and methodological skills; noting similarities and differences in viewpoints, etc. In both exams, some of the questions will be designed to assess your critical thinking and application of the principles studied in class. The final exam may include an essay question designed to have you reflect on the main ideas presented throughout the term.

Course Policies:

Attendance: The calendar says: "Regular attendance is expected of students in all their classes (including lectures, laboratories, tutorials, seminars, etc.). Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from the final examinations. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructors on return to classes". **Regardless of the reason for your absence, you are responsible for finding someone in class that is willing to share missed lecture notes with you.**

Disabilities: The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let me know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated. Please discuss your commitments with me **at least one week** in advance of the scheduled assignment or exam.

Academic Dishonesty: Please review the UBC Calendar "Academic regulations" for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Also visit www.arts.ubc.ca and go to the students' section for useful information on avoiding plagiarism and on correct documentation.

Students should **retain a copy of all submitted assignments** (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standings.

Submission of assignments: Paper assignments must be submitted as **hard copy** to me personally in class or date and time stamped and dropped off at the Sociology main office. Assignments are due **no later than 4:00pm** on the due date if they are not handed in at class. **Papers put in my mailbox, slipped under my door, or sent by email will NOT be accepted.**

Late assignments: Failure to present **on the due date will result in a grade of 0 (zero) for the assignment.** Changes will only be granted for medical and other such excused absences (bone fide **documentation is** required).

Missed Exams: You will receive a **grade of 0 (zero) on a missed exam** unless you have an excused absence (medical reason, emotional hardship, death of a family member). Make-up exams will be given to students only with a bona fide medical, counselor's note, obituary, etc. – **documentation is required and must be given to me BEFORE you are able to write the make-up.** If you miss the mid-term exam, you must contact me as soon as possible to arrange a make-up date. If you miss the final exam, contact the appropriate administrative officer in your faculty (e.g. Arts advising office if you are an Arts student) to request a 'standing deferred'. Note that make-up exams are costly to administer and lead to concerns about fairness in grading. These exams will have their form altered. Also, I generally do not allow make-up exam grades to increase students' averages over what they obtain in the other parts of the course (e.g. if you have a 70% average on the rest of the course and receive a 75% of the make-up exam, your course average will be 70%)

Final Exam Hardships: A student facing an examination hardship defined as three or more exams scheduled **within a 24-hour period**, shall be given an alternative date for the second exam only. The student must **notify the instructor of the second exam** no later than **one month prior** to the second examination date. You are expected to write the first and third exam as scheduled.

Grading Guidelines: (see http://www.arts.ubc.ca/Grading_Guidelines.81.0.html)

90-100% = A+	64-67% = C+
85-89% = A	60-63% = C
80-84% = A-	55-59% = C-
76-79% = B+	50-54% = D
72-75% = B	00-49% = F
68-71% = B-	

Scaling of Grades: Faculties, departments and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty, department or school norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

Class Schedule and Assigned Readings

Schedule	Topic	Required Readings
Part 1: Introduction to the Study of Intimate Relationships		
May 10	Introduction: The Building Blocks of Relationships	Chapter 1; Baumeister & Leary (1995)
May 12	Research Methods	Chapter 2
May 17	Theoretical Views of Relationships	Chapter 6; Hazan & Shaver (1994); Buss, Shackelford, Kirkpatrick, & Larsen (2001)
Part 2: Getting Together		
May 19	Attraction: Starting Relationships	Chapter 3; Felmlee (2001)
Part 3: Basic Processes in Intimate Relationships		
May 24	Social Cognition and Communication	Chapters 4 and 5
May 26	Power and violence MIDTERM	Chapter 12 (not tested on the midterm, but tested on the final)
Part 5: Love and Sexuality		
May 31	Love	Chapter 8; Aron & Aron (1996)
June 2	Sexuality and Sexual Orientation PAPERS DUE	Chapter 9; Peplau (2003); Kurdek (2005); <i>Sex without Strings, Relationships Without Rings</i> . National Marriage Project
Part 6: Relationship Issues		
June 7	Stress and Conflict	Chapter 10 and 11; Gottman, & Silver (1994)
June 9	Dissolution and loss of Relationships	Chapter 13
June 14	Promotion, Enhancement and Repair of Relationships	Chapter 14
June 16	FINAL EXAMINATION	

Paper Assignment: (30%) DUE: June 2.

Your term paper should be 5-6 pages in length (excluding title page and reference section), typed (12 point font – Arial or Times New Roman), and double spaced with 1 inch margins. Papers exceeding this length will not be graded.

The primary objective of this paper is to have you do an analysis of a specific relationship applying the ideas and concepts covered in this class. To do this, you will need to select a relationship (e.g. one of your own, that of a close friend or a relative, or a character from fiction, etc.) that you know well. Describe **one or two** aspects of this relationship such as getting together, the growth of the relationship, sexuality, and/or the erosion or ending of the relationship. Interpret the descriptive aspects of this relationship **using theory and research findings**. If the relationship is ongoing, you might want to indicate your prognosis of its future. What justifications have you for this prediction?

1. Students will narrow their case study to focus on a *specific* topic pertaining to close relationships based on the text/course materials.
2. Using appropriate indices (e.g., PsychInfo, Web of Science, Sociological Abstracts) in the library, search for research articles in peer-reviewed journals on the selected topic. Do not use reviews of literature.
3. Find at least 5 articles focused on a similar topic to summarize in your paper.

Be sure to narrow your topic so that your paper has depth. **I strongly recommend that you prepare an outline for your paper and review it with me before you begin.**

Students may work in groups of 2-3. If this option is chosen, the paper length should be 8-12 pages and peer evaluations must be completed and submitted with the paper as the peer evaluations will be worth 5 points of the paper grade. (See attached peer evaluation form).

Introduction (4marks)

- Introduce the topic
- State the argument or purpose of the essay in a clear thesis
- State topic limits you have set (how have you narrowed your topic?)
- Why is this topic important/relevant?

Synthesis and critique of relevant research materials (12marks)

This is the most important part of the paper. In this section, relevant research literature should be discussed and critically evaluated. This section should:

- Briefly describe the case study
- Inform the reader of the relevant theoretical background to the topic
- Provide an integrated discussion of previous research related to the topic (do not simply list studies – integrate)
- Prepare the reader for conclusions you will make in the last part of your paper

Conclusions (6 marks)

- A paragraph which affirms the purpose or argument of the introductory paragraph. Integrate and summarize how the ideas presented are connected and linked
- Consideration of the limitations and flaws of the literature in the topic area (think about methods used in the studies)
- Suggestions for further research
- Be sure to state how this information can help or harm the reader/general public

Style (3 marks)

- References made according to APA style conventions
- Writing skills (spelling, grammar, sentence structure etc) without flaws
- Presented in a professional manner

Carefully proofread your papers before you hand them in!

Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss), or the need for a Review of Assigned Standing arises (see Academic Regulations, UBC Calendar).

Writing and Reference Resources:

- American Psychological Association (2010). Publication Manual of the APA (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
- Strunk, W. & White, E.B. (1979). The Elements of Style (3rd ed.). New York MacMillan.
- **Be sure to look over the grading rubric below**

Rubric for Research Paper				
Criteria	Exemplary	Good	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Purpose	The writer's central purpose or argument is readily apparent to the reader.	The writing has a clear purpose or argument, but may sometimes digress from it.	The central purpose or argument is not consistently clear throughout the paper.	The Purpose or argument is generally unclear.
Content	Balanced presentation of relevant and legitimate information that clearly supports a central purpose or argument and shows a thoughtful, in-depth analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains important insights.	Information provides reasonable support for a central purpose or argument and displays evidence of a basic analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains some insights.	Information supports a central purpose or argument at times. Analysis is basic or general. Reader gains few insights.	Central purpose or argument is not clearly identified. Analysis is vague or not evident. Reader is confused or may be misinformed.
Organization	The ideas are arranged logically to support the purpose or argument. They flow smoothly from one to another and are clearly linked to each other. The reader can follow the line of reasoning.	The ideas are arranged logically to support the central purpose or argument. They are usually clearly linked to each other. For the most part, the reader can follow the line of reasoning.	In general, the writing is arranged logically, although occasionally ideas fail to make sense together. The reader is fairly clear about what writer intends.	The writing is not logically organized. Frequently, ideas fail to make sense together. The reader cannot identify a line of reasoning and loses interest.
Feel	The writing is compelling. It hooks the reader and sustains interest throughout.	The writing is generally engaging, but has some dry spots. In general, it is focused and keeps the reader's attention	The writing is dull and unengaging. Though the paper has some interesting parts, the reader finds it difficult to maintain interest.	The writing has little personality. The reader quickly loses interest and stops reading.
Tone	The tone is consistently professional and appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is generally professional. For the most part, it is appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is not consistently professional or appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is unprofessional. It is not appropriate for an academic research paper.
Sentence Structure	Sentences are well-phrased and varied in length and structure. They flow smoothly from one to another.	Sentences are well-phrased and there is some variety in length and structure. The flow from sentence to sentence is generally smooth.	Some sentences are awkwardly constructed so that the reader is occasionally distracted.	Errors in sentence and structure are frequent enough to be a major distraction to the reader.

Criteria	Exemplary	Good	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Word Choice	Word choice is consistently precise and accurate.	Word choice is generally good. The writer often goes beyond the generic word to find one more precise and effective.	Word choice is merely adequate, and the range of words is limited. Some words are used inappropriately.	Many words are used inappropriately, confusing the reader.
Grammar, Spelling, Writing Mechanics (punctuation, italics, capitalization, etc.)	The writing is free or almost free of errors.	There are occasional errors, but they don't represent a major distraction or obscure meaning.	The writing has many errors, and the reader is distracted by them.	There are so many errors that meaning is obscured. The reader is confused and stops reading.
Length	Paper is the number of pages specified in the assignment.			Paper has more or fewer pages than specified in the assignment.
Use of References	Compelling evidence from professionally legitimate sources is given to support claims. Attribution is clear and fairly represented.	Professionally legitimate sources that support claims are generally present and attribution is, for the most part, clear and fairly represented.	Although attributions are occasionally given, many statements seem unsubstantiated. The reader is confused about the source of information and ideas.	References are seldom cited to support statements.
Quality of References	References are primarily peer-reviewed professional journals or other approved sources (e.g., government documents, agency manuals, ...). The reader is confident that the information and ideas can be trusted.	Although most of the references are professionally legitimate, a few are questionable (e.g., trade books, internet sources, popular magazines, ...). The reader is uncertain of the reliability of some of the sources.	Most of the references are from sources that are not peer-reviewed and have uncertain reliability. The reader doubts the accuracy of much of material presented.	There are virtually no sources that are professionally reliable. The reader seriously doubts the value of the material and stops reading.
Use of Most Recent Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA)	APA format is used accurately and consistently in the paper on the "References" page.	APA format is used with minor errors.	There are frequent errors in APA format.	Format of the document is not recognizable as APA.

Peer Evaluation Form

In order to more fairly assess the contribution of each member of a group in the preparation and presentation of the group assignments, the comments of individual group members are useful.

Please carefully consider the contribution of the members of your group and according to the criteria outlined below, evaluate that contribution.

Score	Criteria
5-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -above average contribution to the project -consistently demonstrated commitment to the project -attended all meetings/planning sessions/practices -provided initiative and leadership -willing to take responsibility for the development of the project
3-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -average contribution -attended most of the preparatory sessions -cooperative
1-0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -below average contribution to the project -poor attendance -willing to let other group members do the work -lack of interest/initiative

Group Members:

Name:

Score:

Additional comments:

Signature (optional): _____