

PSYC 80103 – Close Relationships
CUNY, Graduate Center, Room 8202
Tuesdays, 4:15-6:15p

INSTRUCTORS: Claudia Brumbaugh

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Walk-in office hours:

Tues 3-4:00, Rm 6304.28 (until 3/17)

Cheryl Carmichael

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Office hours: by appointment

(before or after class, beginning 3/24)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will familiarize you with theories and research in relationship processes. Topics will pertain to the initiation of relationships (e.g., attraction, first impressions), the development and maintenance of relationships (e.g., emotion regulation, love, intimacy, attachment, interdependence), the deterioration of relationships (e.g., conflict, violence), and the impact of relationships on health and well-being, among others.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING:

Participation & attendance (30%)

Students are expected to:

- attend class weekly
- read all assigned papers in advance of class
- submit two substantive questions/comments via email about any of the assigned readings at least 8 hours prior to class
- participate in class discussions (be prepared to raise submitted questions)

Presentation & discussion leading (30%)

Each week, students will present two or three of the assigned articles (denoted with a * below), and lead the discussion on the readings. Article presentations should consist of a brief (~5 minutes) overview of key points in each paper (e.g., theory, method, results, implications), as everyone in the class will have already read the papers. The discussion leader should generate questions based on deep thinking about the papers. Discussion questions can address theoretical assumptions and predictions, methodological and statistical approaches, interpretations and generalizations, and follow-up research questions, among other possibilities. It will be the job of the discussion leader to guide the class through an interactive conversation about the research.

Term paper (40%)

A 10-page research proposal or literature review on a current, specific topic in relationship science will be due on the last day of class. A 1 page ungraded pre-proposal with references will be due on 4/14; this will provide you with an opportunity to receive feedback on your topic.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

2/3 Introduction and overview

2/10 History & methods

Duck, S. (2008). A past and a future for relationship research. *The Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 25, 189 – 200.

*Kenny, D. A., & Cook, W. (1999). Partner effects in relationship research: Conceptual issues, analytic difficulties, and illustrations. *Personal Relationships*, 6, 433-448.

*Reis, H.T., Aron, A., Clark, M.S., & Finkel, E.J. (2013). Ellen Berscheid, Elaine Hatfield, and the emergence of relationship science, *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 8, 558-572.

2/17 Biological & evolutionary perspectives

*Buss, D. M., & Schmitt, D. P. (1993). Sexual strategies theory: An evolutionary perspective on human mating. *Psychological Review*, 100, 204-232.

*Fisher, H., Aron, A., & Brown, L. L. (2005). Romantic love: an fMRI study of a neural mechanism for mate choice. *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, 493, 58-62.

Wood, D. O., & Brumbaugh, C. C. (2009). Using revealed mate preferences to evaluate market force and differential preference explanations for mate selection. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 6, 1226-1244.

2/24 Attachment theory

*Fraley, R. C., & Shaver, P.R. (1998) Airport separations: A naturalistic study of adult attachment dynamics in separating couples. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 75, 1198-1212.

*Gillath, O., Gregersen, S. C., Canterberry, M., & Schmitt, D. P. (2014). The consequences of high levels of attachment security. *Personal Relationships*, 21, 497-514.

*Hadden, B. W., Smith, C. V., & Webster, G. D. (2014). Relationship duration moderates associations between attachment and relationship quality: Meta-analytic support for the Temporal Adult Romantic Attachment Model. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 18, 42-58.

Hazan, C., & Shaver, P. (1987). Romantic love conceptualized as an attachment process. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 52, 511-524.

3/3 Initial attraction processes

*Dai, X., Dong, P., & Jia, J.S. (2014). When does playing hard to get increase romantic attraction? *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 143, 521-526.

Eastwick, P. W., Finkel, E. J., Mochon, D., & Ariely, D. (2007). Selective versus unselective romantic desire: Not all reciprocity is created equal. *Psychological Science*, 18, 317-319.

Joel, S., Teper, R., & MacDonald, G. (2014). People overestimate their willingness to reject potential romantic partners by overlooking their concern for other people. *Psychological Science*, 1-8.

*Luo, S., & Zhang, G. (2009). What leads to romantic attraction: Similarity, reciprocity, security, or beauty? Evidence from a speed-dating study. *Journal of Personality*, 77, 933-964.

3/10 **Social cognition & motivation**

- Baldwin, M. W. (1992). Relational schemas and the processing of social information. *Psychological Bulletin*, 112, 461-484.
- *Fox, J., & Warber, K. M. (2013). Romantic relationship development in the age of Facebook: An exploratory study of emerging adults' perceptions, motives, and behaviors. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior & Social Networking*, 16, 3-7.
- *Murray, S. L., Holmes, J. G., Dolderman, D., & Griffin, D. W. (2000). What the motivated mind sees: Comparing friends' perspectives to married partners' views of each other. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 36, 600-620.
- *Rusbult, C.E., Kumashiro, M., Kubacka, K.E., & Finkel, E.J. (2009). "The part of me that you bring out": ideal similarity and the Michelangelo phenomenon. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 96, 61-82.

3/17 **Passion & sex**

- *Gillath, O., Mikulincer, M., Birnbaum, G. E., & Shaver, P. R. (2008). When sex primes love: Subliminal sexual priming motivates relationship goal pursuit. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 8, 1057-1069.
- Meston, C.M., & Buss, D.M. (2007). Why humans have sex. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 36, 477-507.
- *Miuse, A., Impett, E.A., Kogan, A., & Desmarais, S. (2013). Keeping the spark alive: Being motivated to meet a partner's sexual needs sustains long-term romantic relationships. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 4, 267-273.

3/24 **Love, intimacy, & communication**

- Aron, A., Paris, M., & Aron, E.N. (1995). Falling in love: Prospective studies of self-concept change. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 69, 1102-1112.
- *Laurenceau, J.P., Barrett, L.F., & Pietromonaco, P.R. (1998). Intimacy as an interpersonal process: The importance of self-disclosure, partner disclosure, and perceived partner responsiveness in interpersonal exchanges. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 74, 1238-1251.
- *Overall, N. C., Fletcher, G. J. O., Simpson, J. A., & Sibley, C. G. (2009). Regulating partners in intimate relationships: The costs and benefits of different communication strategies. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 96, 3, 620-639.
- Rauers, A., Blanke, E., & Riediger, M. (2013). Everyday empathic accuracy in younger and older couples: Do you need to see your partner to know his or her feelings? *Psychological Science*, 24, 2210-2217.

3/31 **Maintenance & commitment**

- Baker, L.R., McNulty, J.K., Overall, N.C., Lambert, N.M., & Fincham, F.D. (2013). How Do Relationship Maintenance Behaviors Affect Individual Well-Being? A contextual perspective. *Social Psychological & Personality Science*, 4, 282-289.
- *Impett, E.A., Gable, S.L., & Peplau, L.A. (2005). Giving up and giving in: The costs and benefits of daily sacrifice in intimate relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 89, 327-344.
- Maner, J.K., Gailliot, M.T., & Miller, S.L. (2009). The implicit cognition of relationship maintenance: Inattention to attractive alternatives. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 45, 174-179.
- *Rusbult, C.E., Verette, J., Whitney, G.A., Slovik, L.F., & Lipkus, I. (1991). Accommodation processes in close relationships: Theory and preliminary empirical evidence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 60, 53-78.

4/14 **Negative processes**

- Baucom, B.R., Dickenson, J.A., Atkins, D.C., Baucom, D.H., Fischer, M.S., Weusthoff, S., Hahlweg, K., & Zimmermann, T. (2014). The interpersonal process model of demand/withdraw behavior. *Journal of Family Psychology*.
- *Bolger, N. & Amarel, D. (2007). Effects of social support visibility on adjustment to stress: Experimental evidence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 92, 458-475.
- *Downey, G., Freitas, A.L., Michaelis, B., & Khouri, H. (1998). The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy in Close Relationships: Rejection Sensitivity and Rejection by Romantic Partners. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 75, 545-560.
- *Finkel, E. J., Rusbult, C. E., Kumashiro, M., & Hannon, P. A. (2002). Dealing with betrayal in close relationships: Does commitment promote forgiveness? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 82, 956-974.

4/21 **Positive processes**

- *Algoe, S.B., Gable, S.L., & Maisel, N.C. (2010). It's the little things: Everyday gratitude as a booster shot for romantic relationships. *Personal Relationships*, 17, 217-233.
- *Drigotas, S.M., Rusbult, C.E., Wieselquist, J., & Whitton, S.W. (1999). Close partner as sculptor of the ideal self: Behavioral affirmation and the Michelangelo phenomenon. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 77, 293-323.
- Reis, H.T., Smith, S.M., Carmichael, C.L., Caprariello, P.A., Tsai, F.F., Rodrigues, A., & Maniaci, M.R. (2010). Are you happy for me? How sharing positive events with others provides personal and interpersonal benefits. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 99, 311-329.
- Stanton, S.C.E., Campbell, L., & Loving, T.J. (2014). Energized by love: Thinking about romantic relationships increases positive affect and blood glucose levels. *Psychophysiology*, 10, 990-995.

4/28 **Social support & health**

- *Brooks, K.P., Gruenewald, T., Karlamangla, A., Hu, P., Koretz, B., & Seeman, T.E. (2014). Social Relationships and Allostatic Load in the MIDUS Study. *Health Psychology, Advance online publication*. doi: 10.1037/a0034528
- *Carlisle, M., Uchino, B.N., Sanbonmatsu, D.M., Smith, T.W., Cribbet, M.R., Birmingham, W., Light, K.C., & Vaughn, A.A. (2012). Subliminal activation of social ties moderates cardiovascular reactivity during acute stress. *Health Psychology, 31*, 217-225.
- Coyne, J.C., Rohrbaugh, M.J., Shoham, V., Sonnega, J.S., Nicklas, J.M., & Cranford, J.A. (2001). Prognostic importance of marital quality for survival of congestive heart failure. *American Journal of Cardiology, 88*, 526-529.
- Selcuk, E., & Ong, A.D. (2013). Perceived partner responsiveness moderates the association between received emotional support and all-cause mortality. *Health Psychology, 32*, 231-235.

5/5 **Diversity**

- Conley, T.D., Ziegler, A., Moors, A.C., Matsick, J.L., Valentine, B. (2013). A critical examination of popular assumptions about the benefits and outcomes of monogamous relationships. *Personality and Social Psychology Review, 17*, 124-141.
- *Kurdek, L.A. (2004). Are gay and lesbian cohabiting couples really different from heterosexual married couples? *Journal of Marriage and Family, 66*, 880-900.
- *Morris, W. L., Sinclair, S., & DePaulo, B. M. (2007). No shelter for singles: The perceived legitimacy of marital status discrimination. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations, 10*, 457-470.
- *Shiota, M.N., Campos, B., Gonzaga, G.C., Keltner, D. & Peng, K. (2010). I love you but . . . : Cultural differences in complexity of emotional experience during interaction with a romantic partner. *Cognition & Emotion, 24*, 786-799.

5/12 **Marital process & relationship dissolution**

- Brumbaugh, C.C., & Fraley, R. C. (2015). Too fast, too soon? An empirical investigation into rebound relationships. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 32*, 99-118.
- *Finkel, E.J., Hui, C.M., Carswell, K.L., & Larson, G.M. (2014). The suffocation of marriage: Climbing mount maslow without enough oxygen. *Psychological Inquiry, 25*, 1-41. doi: 10.1080/1047840X.2014.863723
- *Gottman, J.M., Coan, J., Carrere, S., & Swanson, C. (1998). Predicting marital happiness and stability from newlywed interactions. *Journal of Marriage and the Family, 60*, 5-22.
- Sbarra, D.A., Smith, H.L., & Mehl, M.R. (2012). When leaving your ex, love yourself: Observation ratings of self-compassion predict the course of emotional recovery following marital separation. *Psychological Science, 23*, 261-269.