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DEPARTMENT: Psychology

COURSE PREFIX: PSY

COURSE NUMBER: 302

CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE: Topical Seminar: Close Relationships

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):

This course will discuss the psychological constructs involved in close relationships, using both classical and modern research. Students will examine the elements, processes, and phases of relationships, both in intimate and non-intimate relationships.

Prerequisite(s): PSY180

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to

- A. Demonstrate their knowledge of relational elements.
- B. Identify, explain, and apply the major principles behind relational processes.
- C. Demonstrate critical thinking in theoretical examinations.
- D. Demonstrate adequate consumer skills in relational research and real world situations.

IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:

This is a tentative outline for topic discussion and lecture. This class is scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as needed throughout the semester.

Dates	Topic	Assigned Readings (due by Date)
Jan. 12	Introduction and Syllabus	
14	Studying Relationships	Regan: 1 and 2; <i>How to Read Journal Articles</i>
19	MLK Day: No Class	
21	Need to Belong	Regan: 3; <i>Baumeister & Leary, 1995</i>
26	Types of Relationships	Regan: 4
28	Initiation and Development	Regan: 5; <i>Bleske-Rechek, & Buss, 2001</i>
Feb. 2	Interdependency Theory and Communication	Regan: 6
4	Attachment Theory	Regan 3/9; <i>Saferstein, Neimeyer, & Hagans, 2005</i> ; <i>Paper #1: Networking Analysis</i>
9	Exam 1	
11	Types of Love and Relationships	Regan 10; <i>Journal Article Reviews May Begin</i>
16	Attraction	Regan 4
18	Theories of Mate Selection	<i>Buss & Schmitt, 1993</i>
23	Lust	<i>Grammer, Fink, & Neave 2005</i>
25	Cognition in Relationships	Regan 8
Mar. 2	Flirting, Sex and Sexual Satisfaction	Regan 11; Paper #2: Personal Ads
4	Self and Self-Expansion in Relationships	<i>Aron, Steel, Kashdan & Perez, 2006</i>
9	Maintenance and Relationship Satisfaction	Regan 6 & 7
11	Exam 2	
Mar 16-20	Spring Break: No Class	
23	Theoretical Applications: <i>Breakfast Club</i>	
25	Theoretical Applications: <i>Breakfast Club</i>	
30	Equity and Double Standards	Regan 6;
Apr. 1	Conflict & Arguing	Regan 14;
6	Loneliness and Parasocial Relationships	Cohen, 2005
8	Jealousy	Regan 12;
13	Infidelity	Hall & Fincham, 2009

15	Stalking & Abuse	Regan 13; Paper #3: Couple Interview
20	Therapy	Regan 15
22	Dissolution & Post-Dissolution	Regan 12; Bullock, Hackathorn, Mattingly, & Clark, 2010
27	Theoretical Applications: <i>The Notebook</i>	
29	Theoretical Applications: <i>The Notebook</i>	
FINAL	Exam #3: Monday, May 4, 8:00 AM	<i>Last Day for Article Reviews</i>

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

LECTURE: The majority of the course will be taught in a traditional lecture style. However, much discussion will be used throughout the course. It is expected that students will read assigned literature prior to the class, in order to capitalize on the information in the textbook. Many lectures will contain real-world examples and students will be expected to be able to identify and discuss the techniques presented.

Some class periods will involve in-class activities which can range from demonstrations, to group work, to discussions, to independent assignments, to analyzing films, or quizzes. It is imperative that you attend class and participate in these activities. It is also important to note that while some of these activities are not graded, some may be worth points toward your final grade (at the instructor's discretion). If you are absent, you will not be able to make up these points, regardless of the reason for the absence. At the end of any given class period, an assignment relating to the material covered in the lecture may be provided. All assignments are expected to be turned in at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. 20% of total points will be deducted for every day the assignment is late. No late assignments, regardless of the reason, will be accepted after 2 class periods have passed (read: the same class day of the following week.)

HOMEWORK AND EXAMS: The course will consist of three exams, some brief assignments (both inside and outside of the classroom), and short papers. The exams will contain mostly short answer or essay questions. They may cover information from the lecture, book, and/or assigned readings. The final exam will be comprehensive, and due to the nature of the exam itself must be taken on the scheduled final exam time.

You must take exams on the day and time scheduled unless you provide one of the following: (a) prior written notification of University-sanctioned activities as identified in the Undergraduate Bulletin or (b) written documentation from a doctor regarding your child's or your own illness. If you are going to miss an exam for either one of these reasons, you must inform the instructor prior to the start of the exam. Exams missed for either of these reasons must be taken within seven (7) days of the scheduled exam date. If you miss an exam for any other reason (vacation, breakdown, attending a funeral, hangover, etc.), or if you fail to properly notify the instructor prior to the start of the exam, then you may not be allowed to take the exam. Please note that making or receiving a call or text message during an exam will result in a grade of zero (0) on that exam.

PAPERS: During the course of the semester, students will be required to write a few brief papers.

Paper #1: Social Networking Analysis - The first paper will require students to analyze interactions on a social networking site from a theoretical perspective. More information will be given later in the semester.

Paper #2: Personal Ad – Students will be asked to analyze a real life personal ad found online or in a newspaper. Additionally, students will create a personal ad that corrects any mistakes found in the real-world ad and utilizes theories from class. A brief 2 page paper will outline the analysis of both ads. More information will be given later in the semester.

Paper #3: The second paper asks students to interview a couple in any phase of a relationship. Questions in the interview will be structured to ensure that students are asking appropriate and relevant questions regarding the many elements and processes in the various phases of relationships. The student will then write a 3-5 page synopsis of the interview that ties the conversation back to theory. More details will be given during the semester.

Paper #4: The last paper can actually be turned in at any point in the semester. Each student will conduct a review of a *journal* article related to relationships. The student may use an assigned, supplemental, or chosen *empirical* article. The review is not just a summary but an exercise of critical thinking. The paper should be roughly 2-3 pages, double-spaced, in 12 pt. font, Times New Roman and **address each of the following:**

- a brief overview of the research covered in the reading;
- highlight what you found most interesting;
- a brief discussion of how the material relates to what you have learned in the class;
- a more in-depth of discussion of the importance of and the implications of the research discussed in the article for humans personally, humans generally, or some problem we face in the world today;

- and a brief conclusion with your own ideas for related research or follow-up ideas;

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

Students will be expected to interview a couple in a relationship, in order to directly identify the techniques they have been learning.

TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES: Required: Close Relationships by Pamela Regan. ISBN: 978-0-415-87799-2

OFFICE HOURS: For additional assistance, I will hold open office hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week. This is a time when I guarantee that I will be in my office to answer quick questions, comments, or concerns you may have regarding this class, the material, or your grades. I am here to help you in any way that I can. To make an appointment, please visit jhackathorn.youcanbook.me. Making an appointment ensures that you have my undivided attention, your privacy is maintained and less “wait lines” in the hallway. If you arrive for an appointment during office hours and the door is closed, it means that I am in the office with a student who needed privacy. Please knock so that I know you have arrived, and wait patiently.

VII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:

GRADING: Your grade in this class should never be a surprise. All grades will be entered into Canvas, so that you have immediate and available access. Even at midterms, you should know your grade. **(PLEASE NOTE THAT I DO NOT ROUND GRADES FOR ANY REASON.)** If you earn 90% or more of the possible points, you have earned an A. 80% - 89.9999% is a B, 70%-79.9999% is a C, 60%-69.9999% is a D, and below is an E.

VIII. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current *MSU Bulletin*.

The current undergraduate bulletin states that excused absences fall into two broad categories: 1) Absence due to personal illness or death in the immediate family or other extraordinary personal circumstance. The instructor may require appropriate authentication or documentation. 2) Absence due to student participation in a University Sanctioned Event in which the student serves as a representative of the institution.

Tardiness: Chronic tardiness will not be tolerated. It is rude and disrespectful to your instructor and fellow students. Chronic tardiness (arriving late more than 5 times in a semester) may subject you to a loss of 1 point for every subsequent tardy.

IX. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

Cheating - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

Fabrication and Falsification - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

Multiple Submission - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

Plagiarism - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

X. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Policy Statement

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. 270-809-2018 (voice) 270-809-5889(TDD).

XI. [OTHER REQUIRED DEPARTMENTAL OR COLLEGIATE COMMITTEE INFORMATION]