

Diverse Contexts, Diverse People, Diverse Relationships
Psychology 189 Honors Sections
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In our quest to uncover general principles that explain how intimate relationships succeed or fail, we often overlook unique aspects of relationships that are crucial for understanding them. We might believe, for example, that how two people disclose personal details of their lives should affect the growth of their relationship. But was that true a century ago? Is it as true for people with autism as it does for those who are 'neurotypical'? What about people who live in rural China, or urban Tehran? What about people who desire open relationships? How about people who are sexual minorities?

Asking questions like these forces us to recognize that for every principle about relationships, there will always be important and fascinating variations. Without understanding these variations—without understanding *all this diversity*—our understanding of relationships will be incomplete and perhaps even superficial.

The purpose of this seminar is to explore the diversity of intimate relationships, and call our own assumptions into question. We will approach these goals by discussing a series of readings and media that illustrate how relationships are NOT just about mainstream people, or the sexual majority, or people who enjoy privileged positions in society. Our task is to identify our own biases, prejudices, and privileges, and then to delve into all the various forms that intimate relationships take, clarifying, questioning, and perhaps even changing our view of core elements of close relationships. Discussion is a central part of the seminar, and while there may not be any right or wrong answers to the many themes we address, all benefit from the input of all seminar members, and our understanding of intimate relationships will grow stronger as a consequence.

Seminar Requirements

- Read, watch, and review the readings and media that I distribute each week.
- Based on your review of the materials I distribute, write a total of 3-5 comments or questions that you want to raise with the entire group. Our sessions will then involve a free-wheeling discussion of those materials, as we all work to connect them to our bigger question: what does this particular theme tell us about intimate relationships? What is the new idea? What did we learn or discover about intimacy that we had not fully understood prior to this point?
- Choose from one of three options for a final written project. Your topic must be approved by me by the end of Week 7, and the final project itself is due on Friday of Week 10. Details of the three choices are below.

Grading

Your grade is based on attendance and the quality of your participation and submitted notes and by the quality of your work on the final project.

I am eager to discuss our course material or the final project with you outside of class time; if my office hours do not match up with your free times, send me an email and we can work out another time to meet.

FINAL PROJECT

Please select one of the following options.

Option A. Narrative Interview on Relationships and Diversity.

Conduct an interview of at least 60 minutes in duration with an individual or a couple who represents, in one form or another, the sorts of diversity that we touched upon in this seminar. Be sure to prepare a set of sensitive and thoughtful questions prior to the interview, and submit those questions with two other documents: the transcribed interview, and your analysis of the interview. The transcribed interview itself should take up at least two single-spaced pages, and your analysis of the interview should take up at least one single-spaced page. Longer responses are fine and will be accepted, but shorter responses will not be accepted. The analysis should provide a thoughtful reflection about what you heard in the interview and how it relates to, or expands upon, any of the themes and ideas you have learned in the seminar or in 137C. It is completely acceptable to transcribe only those parts of the interview that you find most pertinent to your analysis. It is not acceptable to falsify or embellish any information in the interview. It is not acceptable to criticize or challenge the views and opinions person or couple you interview; instead your goal is to help bring out their story and experience so you can understand it and convey that to others.

You should record the audio portion of your interview, with the explicit permission of the person or couple that you interviewed. You do not need to hand in the audio recording, but you should refer to it as you make your transcription. You are expected to erase or delete the audio recording only after a grade in the seminar has been registered for you.

If you select this option, you must also submit contact information (name, email, telephone) of the individual or individuals that you interviewed. I may ask to listen to the interview prior to grading your project.

Option B. Analysis of Empirical Research on Relationships and Diversity.

Identify two research articles published in the scientific literature since 2012 that together illuminate some important aspect of diversity in intimate relationships. Articles must include original data collection and statistical analysis of those data, and they must appear in a legitimate scientific journal. Articles cannot be the same as those assigned in class or closely related to those articles assigned in class. However, articles can address themes and topics similar to those addressed in the seminar, and articles can come from your 137C Intimate Relationships textbook.

For each article, write a one-page single-spaced analysis in which you first summarize the rationale for the study and the results of the study, followed by your perspective on what this article reveals about relationships in diverse contexts. Thus, at minimum, you will be submitting a two-page document. Longer analyses will be accepted if you want to write more, but these

should be no longer than two written pages per research article. With this option your challenge is to identify recent scientific studies that say something interesting about relationships and diversity.

Please submit the actual research articles with your analyses of those articles.

Option C. Analysis of Relationships and Diversity in the Popular Media.

Identify four substantial and credible resources in the popular media that illuminate an important form of diversity that was not fully addressed in the class. Materials can include articles in credible sources, video clips, and podcasts or audio clips. Submit these materials (or links to these materials), together with a 2-page, single-spaced analysis that addresses why the topic you have chosen is significant or important to consider in a discussion about diversity (in one paragraph), followed by a detailed summary and critique of each of the resources you have submitted.

Four resources are required, though you are welcome to submit as many as six resources, as long as each one makes a significant and clear contribution to the broader topic you are addressing. In all likelihood you will need to review a large body of material before settling on the 4-6 resources that you will be submitting for the assignment. You are also welcome to submit one scientific research article published in an academic article since 2012 if this helps to enrich coverage of your topic, though this too should be part of your detailed summary and critique.

All materials should be submitted by email to Professor Karney by 10am on Friday of Week 10. You may submit materials earlier than this deadline, but late submissions will not be accepted. In most cases the materials you submit will be attachments to your email, typically a Word file. Please keep a copy of this file for your records. Your materials are not officially submitted until I acknowledge in an email response that they have been received. Put your complete name and student ID on your submitted materials. Proofread your work closely; writing quality will contribute to your overall grade. All submissions are governed by the UCLA honor code. All submitted materials will be shredded or otherwise discarded after they are graded. Any grading disputes must be resolved within 30 days of the completion of the course.

Psychology 189: Honors Seminar for Intimate Relationships (2017)

Weekly Schedule and List of Materials

Week 1. NOT WEIRD: Making the Case for Diversity in Psychological Science

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v466/n7302/full/466029a.html>

Week 2. NOT Your Grandparents: Demographic Trends

Listen to the great demographer Andrew Cherlin:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3gN3zebdZ8>

<http://time.com/3422624/report-millennials-marriage/>

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/26/health/families.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20131126&r=1&

Week 3. NOT Privileged: Poverty and Intimacy

Edin video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRUj_C5JdHs

NOTE: Watch this video before reading the article!

The Marriage Cure (I will distribute this article by email).

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/for-richer-or-poorer-the-challenges-of-marrying-outside-your-class/2015/03/26/cd7ccf72-ccac-11e4-8a46-b1dc9be5a8ff_story.html

Week 4. NOT Western: Relationships Outside of Egalitarian and Individualistic Cultures

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/291/reunited-and-it-feels-so-good?act=1#play>

NOTE: The link will take you directly to the segment about a couple that broke up and then got back together. Just listen to that segment.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/20/fashion/weddings/parental-involvement-can-help-in-choosing-marriage-partners-experts-say.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

<http://www.pri.org/stories/2014-01-01/some-chinese-couples-are-telling-their-parents-hands-our-wedding>

Dating and Mate Selection among Adult Children of Immigrants

NOTE: I will post this article to the class CCLE web site.

Week 5: NOT Straight: Intimate Relationships among Sexual Minorities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pR9gyloyOjM>

Green, R.-J., & Mitchell, V. (2008). Gay and lesbian couples in therapy: Minority stress, relational ambiguity, and families-of-choice. In A. Gurman (Ed.), *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy: Fourth Edition* (pp. 662–680). New York, NY: Guilford.

NOTE: I will be posting this article via email.

Week 6: NOT Monogamous: Open Relationships

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/07/multiple-lovers-no-jealousy/374697/>

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/29/us/29sfmetro.html?_r=0

<http://www.lifeontheswingset.com/21216/ss-200-monogamish-life-exploring-new-frontiers-with-dan-savage-2/>

Optional:

Check out this web site: <http://www.theand.us/> If you answer a few questions, they will show you a clip of couples talking to each other – which is awesome. Then, if you scroll down, you will be shown a gallery of other clips. Try to find the one called “Poly vs Mono”.

Week 7. NOT Sexual: Intimate Relationships without Erotic Attraction

<http://www.wired.com/2015/02/demisexuality/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrXWqwuOqIQ>

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2008/sep/08/relationships.healthandwellbeing>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/fulfillment-any-age/201402/finding-joy-in-the-sexless-marriage>

Optional:

Curious to learn even more about this topic? Try this:

<http://www.asexuality.org/home/video.html>

Important Note: The topic for your final project must be approved by the end of Week 7! Please send me an email in which you propose a final project.

Week 8. NOT Gender-typical: Intimate Relationships and Transgender People

<http://nytimes.com/2015/03/08/fashion/for-some-in-transgender-community-its-never-too-late-to-make-a-change.html?referrer=& r=0>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/when-no-gender-fits-a-quest-to-be-seen-as-just-a-person/2014/09/20/1ab21e6e-2c7b-11e4-994d-202962a9150c_story.html

http://www.slate.com/blogs/outward/2014/06/19/diane_and_jacob_anderson_minshall_on_gender_transition_as_a_married_couple.html

Week 9. Discussion of Final Projects

In this class, each student will provide a 2-minute summary of their final project.

Week 10. NOT Neurotypical: Biological Diversity and Relationships

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/458/play-the-part?act=2#play>

NOTE: The link will take you directly to the segment about Aspergers. Just listen to that segment.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/26/us/navigating-love-and-autism.html?pagewanted=all& r=0>

Haase et al. (2013)

NOTE: I'll distribute this article via email. Focus on Figure 1.