

**PSY 365**  
**Close Relationships**

*3 Hours of Academic Credit*

*Spring, 2013*

CHSS 140    Tues & Thurs, 12:30 - 1:50

Professor: Rowland Miller  
Office: CHSS 376

Phone: 294-1176  
E-mail: [miller@shsu.edu](mailto:miller@shsu.edu)

Office Hours: Monday, 1:30 - 4:00; Tues & Thurs, 2:00 – 3:00. Other days and times by appointment.

TEXT: Miller, R. S. (2012). *Intimate relationships* (6th ed.).  
Boston: McGraw-Hill. (ISBN: 9780078117152)

The course is an introduction to relationship science. It examines the processes of interdependent intimacy using psychological theory and research, addressing the topics below.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Exam</u>
Building Blocks	C1	
Friendship	C7	
Relationship Research	C2	<b>1</b> (Feb 14)
Attraction	C3	
Social Cognition	C4	
Communication	(pp. 141-166)	<b>2</b> (March 21)
Interdependency	C6	
Love	C8	
Sex	C9	<b>3</b> (April 16)
Stresses and Strains	C10	
Conflict	C11	
Good Communication	(pp. 166-173)	
Loss	(pp. 391-407)	
Living happily ever after	(pp. 424-433)	<b>4</b> (May 7; 11:00)

## CLASS POLICIES:

Your grade will be based on your total number of points from four exams, each worth 100 points. They will be composed of multiple-choice, \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_, and short-answer essay questions. Please bring a Scan-Tron **Form 886-E**, a “Mini-Essay book,” to each exam. The exam schedule listed above is tentative; it may change as the semester progresses. The last exam will not be comprehensive.

At the close of the course, grades will be assigned as an approximate function of the top scores in the class according to the following scale: 90-100%, A; 80-89%, B; 70-79%, C; 60-69%, D.

Class attendance is not required, and no penalty will be levied if you do not come to class. Every class will contain exam material that does not appear in the text, however, so you should expect adverse outcomes when you miss class. We will not encounter any opportunities for “extra credit” in the course.

I will be glad to work with you to arrange an alternative test time if you must miss an exam (except for the last exam) as long as you *arrange such an appointment with me **before** the day of the exam*. Under any other circumstances—including a phone message that you can’t make an exam—you’ll be provided a make-up exam on Friday, May 3, in our classroom at 1:00. You may take only one makeup exam. You will also have only one opportunity to take our last exam, on Tuesday morning, May 7, at 11:00.

### The Small Print:

SHSU proudly adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. Your disclosure of any disability will be kept strictly confidential, of course; however, no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

The University Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, states that you are expected “to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity both in and out” of the classroom. Disciplinary action that will involve failure of, and expulsion from, our course will be initiated against any student accused of any form of academic dishonesty.

If you miss an exam in order to observe a religious holy day, I will happily arrange to provide you the exam at another time during that week. However, University policy requires you to notify me in writing of your wish to be absent due to religious holy days. Please plan ahead, and, for more info on this and the other policies mentioned above, feel free to check out our official University guidelines at [www.shsu.edu/syllabus](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus).

Visitors will ordinarily be welcome in our class as long as they are well-behaved, but please check with me before you bring visitors to class. I get to be the judge of who’s well-behaved and who’s not, and anyone (including you) who does not, in my judgment, display sufficient decorum and respect for others will be asked to leave the room.

I retain the copyright to my lectures. They may not be transmitted or broadcast without permission.

Texting annoys, and often insults, your instructor. Please refrain from sending text messages from this room.

Indeed, it’s extremely impolite to be logged on to Facebook after class has begun.

\*\*\* I reserve the right to answer any phone that rings in this room. \*\*\*

Any use of a telephone, pager, or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during an exam is forbidden. The mere visible presence of such a device during a test period will, regrettably, be considered de facto evidence of cheating.

You’ll be asked to provide a formal evaluation of me and my course near the end of the semester.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Students will become more discerning consumers of information regarding relationships.
- 2) Students will become more familiar with the major areas of inquiry in relationship science.
- 3) Students will develop more realistic perceptions of, and expectations regarding, relationship processes.

## **CLASS MEETINGS:**

During our semester together, you can expect to encounter the topics below. The schedule reflects our plans at the start of the course, but is tentative and may change as the course progresses.

<u>Date</u>	<u>The Day's Focus</u>	<u>Key Sources</u>
January 17	Class policies	Syllabus
January 22	Intimacy; The influence of culture	pp. 1-14
January 24	Culture (con't.); Evolutionary psychology	pp. 32-36
January 29	Evolution (con't.); Attachment styles	pp. 14-19
January 31	Sex differences; Gender differences	pp. 19-26
February 5	Personality; Self-esteem; Friendship	pp. 26-32; 212-220
February 7	Shyness; Loneliness	pp. 231-242
February 12	Methods of relationship science	pp. 40-66
February 14	*** First Exam ***	Chapters 1, 2, & 7
February 19	Exam feedback; The power of proximity	pp. 70-74
February 21	Physical attractiveness	pp. 74-88
February 26	Similarity	pp. 92-100
February 28	Principles of social cognition	pp. 105-120
March 5	Principles (con't.); Impression mgmt.	pp. 120-133
March 7	G. Collins: <i>As Texas Goes...</i>	audio assignment
March 19	Nonverbal communication	pp. 143-155
March 21	*** Second Exam ***	Chapters 3 & 4; pp. 143-166

March 26	Exam feedback; Interdependency theory	pp. 175-183
March 28	Rewards and costs	pp. 183-196
April 2	Rewards and costs and commitment	pp. 204-209
April 4	The science of love	pp. 244-271
April 9	Sexual attitudes and behavior	pp. 273-288
April 11	Safe sex; Sexual satisfaction	pp. 289-300
April 16	*** Third Exam ***	Chapters 6, 8, & 9
April 18	Exam feedback; Relational evals; Jealousy	pp. 305-323
April 23	Deception; Betrayal	pp. 323-332
April 25	Conflict & Forgiveness	pp. 337-355; 332-334
April 30	Good communication; Divorce	pp. 166-173; 391-398
May 2	Divorce (con't.); Living happily ever after	pp. 398-407; 424-433
May 7	*** Fourth Exam *** (11:00 am)	Chapters 10 & 11; pp. 166-173; 391-407; 424-433