

PSYCHOLOGY OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

SOP 4704 Section 2C94 • Classroom: 130 Psychology Building

Tues. 10:40 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Period 4) • Thurs. 10:40 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (Periods 4–5)

Instructor: Gregory D. Webster, Ph.D.**Office:** 257 Psychology Building**Hours:** Thursdays, 2:30–4:30 p.m.**E-mail:** gdwebs@ufl.edu**Description, Purpose, and Policies**

Understanding close relationships is among the central goals of social psychology. Close relationships range from family ties to friendships to romantic and sexual relationships. Relationships science is exciting, interesting, at times controversial, and increasingly influential in understanding human social behavior. This course in close relationships will view the formation, development, maintenance, and dissolution of relationships through the theoretical lenses of biology and social psychology. The purpose of this course is to help you understand and evaluate theories, methods, and research in close relationships. Readings will be the textbook, a popular press book, and journal articles, which will be available online. Five pop quizzes and five taken-home, open-book, open-note essays (≤ 500 words each) will determine your grade. Groups of students will also present a chapter from the popular press book for extra credit. Students will uphold the University of Florida Honor Code in all aspects of this course. Class attendance is mandatory. Make-up quizzes and essays will *not* be given unless arranged ahead of time with the Instructor in the case of *documented* illnesses or emergencies. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Grading

Item	Description	Number	Points	Total	Percent
Pop Quizzes	Multiple choice	5	10	50	25
Essays	Take-home open-book/note ≤ 500 -word essay	5	30	150	75
Group Presentation	Small group presents a <i>Modern Romance</i> chapter	1	4	4	Extra Credit
Total				200	100

Course Grading Scale

Letter	Percent	Letter	Percent	Letter	Percent
A	≥ 93.33	B–	≥ 80.00	D+	≥ 66.67
A–	≥ 90.00	C+	≥ 76.67	D	≥ 63.33
B+	≥ 86.67	C	≥ 73.33	D–	≥ 60.00
B	≥ 83.33	C–	≥ 70.00	E	< 60.00

Dates	Topic	Chapter	Articles & Assignments
Aug. 23	Introduction		
Aug. 25	The Science of Intimate Relationships	1	
Aug. 30	Theories, Concepts, and Human Nature	2	
Sept. 1	Theories, Concepts, and Human Nature	2	
Sept. 6	The Intimate Relationship Mind	3	
Sept. 8	The Intimate Relationship Mind	3	
Sept. 13	The Intimate Relationship Body	4	Chopik et al. (2014)
Sept. 15	The Intimate Relationship Body	4	Essay: Chapters 1–4
Sept. 20	Bonding and Attachment	5	
Sept. 22	Bonding and Attachment	5	
Sept. 27	Mate Selection	6	
Sept. 29	NO CLASS (Conference)		
Oct. 4	Mate Selection	6	Jonason et al. (2015)
Oct. 6	Mate Selection	6	Essay: Chapters 5–6
Oct. 11	Love	7	
Oct. 13	Love	7	
Oct. 18	Reading Relationships	8	
Oct. 20	Reading Relationships	8	
Oct. 25	Communication and Interaction	9	Lehmiller et al. (2014)
Oct. 27	Communication and Interaction	9	Essay: Chapters 7–9
Nov. 1	Sex and Passion	10	
Nov. 3	Sex and Passion	10	
Nov. 8	Relationship Violence	11	
Nov. 10	Relationship Violence	11	
Nov. 15	Breaking Up: Relationship Dissolution	12	
Nov. 17	Breaking Up: Relationship Dissolution	12	Perilloux & Buss (2008)
Nov. 22	Conclusions	13	Essay: Chapters 10–13
Nov. 24	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)		
Nov. 29	<i>Modern Romance</i>	1, 2	
Dec. 1	<i>Modern Romance</i>	3, 4, 5	Garcia et al. (in press)
Dec. 6	<i>Modern Romance</i>	6, 7	Essay: <i>Modern Romance</i>

- Ansari, A., & Klinenberg, E. (2015). *Modern romance*. New York: Penguin. [book]
- Chopik, W. J. et al. (2014). Too close for comfort? Adult attachment and cuddling in romantic and parent–child relationships. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 69, 212–216.
- Fletcher, G. J. O., Simpson, J. A., Campbell, L., & Overall, N. (2013). *The science of intimate relationships*. Malden, MA: Wiley–Blackwell. [textbook]
- Garcia, J. R., Gesselman, A. N., Siliman, S. A., Perry, B. L., Coe, K., & Fisher, H. E. (in press). Sexting among singles in the USA: Prevalence of sending, receiving, and sharing sexual messages and images. *Sexual Health*.
- Jonason, P. K., Garcia, J. R., Webster, G. D., Li, N. P., & Fisher, H. E. (2015). Relationship dealbreakers: Traits people avoid in potential mates. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 41, 1697–1711.
- Lehmiller, J. J., VanderDrift, L. E., & Kelly, J. R. (2014). Sexual communication, satisfaction, and condom use behavior in friends with benefits and romantic partners. *Journal of Sex Research*, 51, 74–85.
- Perilloux, C., & Buss, D. M. (2008). Breaking up romantic relationships: Costs experienced and coping strategies employed. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 6, 164–181.