

PSYCHOLOGY OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS
 SOP 4704 • Classroom: 151 Psychology Building
 Wednesdays 4:05 to 7:05 p.m. (Periods 9–11)

Instructor
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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 |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Jan. 9 | The Science of Intimate Relationships | 1 | |
| Jan. 16 | Theories, Concepts, and Human Nature | 2 | |
| Jan. 23 | The Intimate Relationship Mind | 3 | Chopik et al. (2014) |
| Jan. 30 | The Intimate Relationship Body | 4 | Essay: Chapters 1–4 |
| Feb. 6 | NO CLASS (Conference) | | |
| Feb. 13 | Bonding and Attachment | 5 | |
| Feb. 20 | Mate Selection | 6 | Jonason et al. (2015) |
| Feb. 27 | Love | 7 | Essay: Chapters 5–7 |
| Mar. 6 | NO CLASS (Spring Break) | | |
| Mar. 13 | Reading Relationships | 8 | Garcia et al. (2016) |
| Mar. 20 | Communication and Interaction | 9 | Lehmiller et al. (2014) |
| Mar. 27 | Sex and Passion | 10 | Essay: Chapters 8–10 |
| Apr. 3 | Relationship Violence | 11 | |
| Apr. 10 | Breaking Up: Relationship Dissolution | 12 | Perilloux & Buss (2008) |
| Apr. 17 | Conclusions | 13 | Essay: Chapters 11–13 |
| Apr. 24 | <i>Modern Romance</i> | Book | 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. (2016). 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.