

HUMAN SEXUAL BEHAVIOR: RELATIONSHIPS
PSYCHOLOGY 455
TTH 4-515
Spring 2022
Synchronous – Zoom Only

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Required Text:

Miller, R. S. (2012). *Intimate Relationships* (9th Edition). Boston: McGraw-Hill.
E-book: <http://www.coursesmart.com>

ISBN: 978-1-269-80426-3

Textbook Description:

Investigation of human sexual relationships as it impacts interpersonal dynamics. Students have the opportunity to compare experiences, beliefs, and knowledge with other class members. Students will explore scientific literature on the factors affecting interpersonal functioning. Examination of current approaches to the treatment of relationship dysfunction.

Purpose of the Course:

The primary focus of this course is the study of close interpersonal relationships. The course will survey psychological theory and research in the areas of interpersonal attraction, friendships, sexual behavior, romantic love, marriage, etc. The course is also “interpersonal” in the sense that students will learn by sharing and comparing their own experiences, beliefs, and knowledge with other class members. Finally, the course is “personal” in that students will evaluate their own relationships, sexual attitudes, values, and behaviors.

Grading:

Grades will be based on verbal and group participation, three exams and one video analysis report.

Participation (25 points). Class sessions will be divided into a lecture hour and a collaborative exercise hour. The lecture will focus on presenting the basic material and the latter part of class will involve group discussion and collaborative exercises intended to explore how concepts emerge in actual relationships. Instructor will bring in actual cases of individuals and couples in treatment in order to explore the theoretical concepts in the context everyday interactions. Note all cases will be based on cases treated in a private practice or community mental health settings. Identifying information and other aspects of the cases have been changed to protect the confidentiality of the patients.

Points will be given for participating in group work (i.e., submitting group work with your name on it). Points will also be awarded for participating in class discussion, answering questions, and adding experiences and insights. Ultimately, only students who are able to do collaborative work and speak up in class during discussion can expect to receive the full 25 points. Group work must be completed in class session in order to obtain credit.

Zoom Class Recordings: Attendance is an absolute requirement for this course. Zoom recordings will only be posted sporadically. Do not rely on zoom recordings and miss attending class.

Exams. (50 points each). There will be two midterm exams and a final. Each exam will cover material from course readings, class activities, and lectures. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. All exams will be taken on Canvas during class hours (**no in person class on exam days**). If you experience technical difficulties that interfere with your ability to take the exam, you must email me immediately and send a screenshot of the error.

One Film Analysis. (25 points). During the course you will be required watch one film of your choice that depict various interpersonal relationships. The course is divided into three main sections (Courtship, Maintaining, Dissolution/Repair). You will analyze one film based on themes of Courtship or themes of Relationship Maintenance. After watching the film, you are to write a paper. (Only one paper is required although you will have the option of the theme.) The paper will be due according to the schedule on the syllabus. (Note the due dates). The assignment is not a summary of the plot or a review of the movie or a record of your emotional reactions to the movie or random associations inspired by the movie. It is a way for you to show me how you can apply ideas and insights from class to understand human nature in new and deeper ways. Movies include complex characters, behaviors, and inter-relationships.

Instructions: You are to identify 4 or more concepts from course readings, lectures, and class discussions portrayed in the film. The paper should be 3 pages-long, and double-spaced. In other words, identify events in the film that are examples of course concepts. For each of

these concepts: (a) define the concept (bold and underlined)—Don't assume that I know what the concept is all about. I need to know that you understand it. Give an explanation of the concept in your own words, and (b) describe the specific events or scene in the film that illustrates the concept.

At the end of the semester, your points from participation (25 pts), the three exams (150 pts.) and one film paper (25 pts.) will be aggregated, with a possible 200 points in the course.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

100-93 %= A	89-87%= B+	79-77%= C+	69-67%= D+	< 60%= F
92-90%= A-	86-83%= B	76-73%= C	66-63%= D	
	82-80%= B-	72-70%= C-	62-60%= D-	

Make-up exams will be given only in cases of extreme emergency (e.g., passing of an immediate family member, involved in car accident, or emergency surgery). Emergency must be supported with official documentation. Arrangements must be made with the professor ahead of time. Unexcused test absence can be made up with a whole grade deduction.

Classroom Etiquette. Students are expected to abide by the university standards of academic integrity (e.g., no cheating, plagiarism, drunkenness, etc.) and civility (i.e., proper conduct). Students who are caught cheating may fail that assignment or the entire course and may be reported to Judicial Affairs. Students are also expected to treat professors, staff, and fellow students with the utmost respect. Incidents of behavioral misconduct may be reported to Judicial Affairs. Given the sensitivity of the course topic, it is absolutely essential that students maintain an environment of intellectual openness, level discussion, and mutual respect.

Disability: If you believe you have a physical, emotional, or medical condition that may impact your ability to succeed in this course, contact the Disabilities Resource Center (Building 9, room 103) who will communicate directly with your professor any appropriate accommodations that should be made on your behalf.

Email Communication. When communicating with professor, please be sure to include your full name, and the name of the class and section number in your email. Also, allow 24-48 hours during weekdays to get my response and expect 48 to 72 hours during weekends. It is critical that before you contact me, you consult with the syllabus. I will not respond to emails when the answer is in the syllabus.

Extra Credit: A total of 8 points: All extra credit needs to be turned in by last week of lecture. Students will have the opportunity to get extra credit for volunteering as a subject for psychological experiments.

Option A. The most common option is to participate in research studies. You will receive 4 points of extra credit in this class for each hour you participate on the [Sona website](#) (e.g., if you

participated for a half hour on Sona, you would get 2 points of extra credit in this class). For example, Bart participates in four 30-minute studies on the [Sona website](#), earning a total of 2 Sona credits (0.5 credits for each study), and the 2 Sona credits are converted to 8 extra credit points in this class.

The extra credit points you earn (no more than 8) are added to your final cumulative point total, after the final grading scale has been determined. In terms of your final grade in the course, extra credit points may or may not help raise you to the next highest grade-category (it all depends on how far you are from a grade category cut-off before your extra credit points are added to your point total). You will only get a higher grade if your extra credit points raise your total points above the next highest grade-category cutoff.

For example (the numbers in this example are fictional), Marge's final cumulative point total at the end of the quarter is 325, placing her in the B category, and the final grading scale says the cut-off for the next-highest grade of B+ is 333. If Marge earned 8 points of extra credit, her final grade would be a B+ ($325 + 8 = 333$). However, if her final point total was only 324 (instead of 325), since she earned 8 points of extra credit, her final grade would remain a B ($324 + 8 = 332$). Here are some additional examples:

Example 1: Marge participates in 3 30-minute studies on the Sona website, each study worth 0.5 credit hour, and thus earns 6 extra credit points in this class (2 extra credit points for each 0.5 Sona credit hour). She decides not to earn any further extra credit points.

Example 2: Lisa is in three 30-minute Sona studies, each study worth 0.5 credit hour, and thus gets 6 extra credit points. She then decides to participate in 4 more 30-minute studies, but, since only 8 points of extra credit are allowed, she only gets a total of 8 extra credit points (6 from earlier plus another 2).

**** Upon completion, please forward me a screenshot of your Sona credit confirmation. Submit on the 10th week of class. No sooner or later.**

Option B: Alternative Extra Credit Assignment: A two page reaction paper analyzing patterns of attachment and their consequent impact on interpersonal functioning. This can be a self-analysis, family analysis, or interview of a friend. Please see me before choosing this option.

Human Sexuality-Relationships
Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to Change at Professor's Discretion)

Dates

1/25	Intro to Course	
1/27	Introduction	
2/1	Building Blocks of Relationships	Chapter 1
2/3		
2/8	Research of Interpersonal Relationships	Chapter 2
2/10		
2/15	Attraction	Chapter 3
2/17		
2/22	Social Cognition	Chapter 4
2/24	Film Analysis Paper Due (#1)	
3/1	Midterm 1 – Take on Canvas, no zoom	
3/3	Communication	Chapter 5
3/8	Communication	Chapter 5
3/10	Interdependency	Chapter 6
3/15	Friendship	Chapter 7
3/17		
3/22	Love	Chapter 8
3/24	Sexuality	Chapter 9
3/29-3/31 SPRING BREAK		
4/5	Stress and Strain	Chapter 10
4/7	Midterm 2 – Take on Canvas, no zoom	
4/12	Film Analysis Due (#2)	
4/17	Conflict	Chapter 11
4/19	Power and Violence	Chapter 12
4/21		
4/26	Dissolution	Chapter 13
4/28		
5/3	Maintaining Relationships/Repair	Chapter 14
5/5		
5/10	Maintaining Relationships/Repair	Chapter 14

5/12

Final Exam Review

Final Exam:

Thursday, May 19th 3pm-450pm (Take on Canvas, no zoom)