



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 443 (L01) – Interpersonal Relationships**  
**Fall 2008**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Dr. S. D. Boon</b>	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	<b>SH 288</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-5564	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MWF 13:00-13:50
<b>Email:</b>	sdboon@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	A231B		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA		

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### **Course Description and Goals**

Application of social psychological theory and methodology to a variety of topics in the area of interpersonal relationships such as: attraction, close relationships, interpersonal conflict, communication, and power. Course projects will be an integral part of the course.

### **Learning Objectives**

The aim of this course is to survey a wide range of areas of study within the field of interpersonal relationships. By the end of the course you should:

1. Possess an increased understanding of the diversity of interpersonal relationships and their multifaceted nature.
2. Understand the major theoretical frameworks that have been used to explain the phenomena that researchers have investigated in this area.
3. Be familiar with the types of research questions and research designs common in studies in this area, as well as be able to critique research findings on relationship topics that you encounter in the media and elsewhere.

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**Note: this course covers material of a potentially sensitive nature (i.e., experiences of divorce, relationship violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault, etc.). You should feel comfortable refraining from commenting on any issue that you find upsetting. However, *all material* will be considered suitable for examination purposes.**

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### **Required Text (available at the Bookstore)**

Miller, R. S., Perlman, D., & Brehm, S. S. (2007). Intimate Relationships, 4th. Ed.

Additional readings are required for two of the hot topics discussions and for the group presentations. You may borrow these readings from me at my office for photocopying at your own expense. I will also attempt to locate online versions for as many of these articles as I can find and post these on blackboard.

### **Lectures**

Typically I will lecture on Mondays and Wednesdays and we will have hot topic discussions, group presentations, or guest speakers on Fridays.

## Evaluation

Weight	Course Component	Due Date
10%	culture comparison	Due in class Sept. 26, 2008
30%	group presentation	In class throughout term
30%	paper	Due in class Nov. 24, 2008
30%	final exam (take-home, essay format, and cumulative)	Questions posted, December 5, 2008 <b>Due Dec. 12, 2008 by 4:00 p.m. to A275 (Psych Office)</b>

## Culture Comparison Assignment

You will write a brief 3-page paper comparing Western conceptualizations of love and marriage with conceptualizations of love and marriage as portrayed in one or more Hindi films (as assigned in class). The paper (due September 26) must be **typed** in APA 5 format (don't include an abstract or running head) in a font no smaller than Times 12 with 1" margins on all sides, double-spaced. Pages in excess of prescribed page limits **will be removed** prior to grading. Failure to adhere to APA format will result in a **penalty** (not to exceed 5 marks out of 100). Papers are due at the **beginning** of class and late papers (including those handed in after the class has started) will be subject to a 10% penalty per day (including a 10% penalty over weekends). **Failure to cite sources appropriately or to do your own work will result in an automatic failure on the assignment.**

## Group Presentations & "Hot Topic" Discussions

As a general rule, Fridays will be devoted to group presentations (except on occasions when guest speakers present). However, to ensure that the first group has time to prepare their presentation, I will use the first three presentation time slots for discussions of "hot topics" in the field of close relationships research. The first presentation (group #1) will thus be Oct. 3. *Groups who present early will be graded more leniently than those presenting later to compensate for having less time to prepare* (and fewer "models" of what can be done and what "works" for this assignment).

## Paper

This 5-page paper (due Nov. 24) must be **typed** in APA 5 format (don't include an abstract or running head) in a font no smaller than Times 12 with 1" margins on all sides, double-spaced. Pages in excess of prescribed page limits **will be removed** prior to grading (page limits do not include title pages, references, or any tables or appendices you may chose to include). Failure to adhere to APA format will result in a **penalty** (not to exceed 5 marks out of 100). Papers are due at the **beginning** of class and late papers (including those handed in after the class has started) will be subject to a 10% penalty per day (including a 10% penalty over weekends). **Failure to cite sources appropriately or to do your own work will result in an automatic failure on the paper.**

## Take-Home Essay Final Exam

The essay-format final exam will be **cumulative** in nature. You may expect questions based on all aspects of the course including readings, the text, discussions, lectures, group presentations, and guest lectures (as applicable). I may give you some choice as to the essay questions you answer. Questions will be posted on Blackboard by the last day of classes (December 5, 2008). Answers will be due at the Main Psychology Office (A275) no later than 4:00 on December 12th. **Late exams will not be accepted. You must cite the sources for your thoughts in your answers. Be sure to do your own work. Failure to cite sources appropriately or to do your own work will result in an automatic failure on the exam.**

### Electronic submission of assignments/exam papers

E-mailed assignments will NOT be accepted. Written assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class. Late assignments may be handed in at the Psychology Office, A 275 (after hours, the green box outside this office). Late assignments will be assessed a penalty as described above (10% per day, including 10% over weekends). Early assignments may be handed in to the same locations as late assignments (but will of course not be assessed a penalty).

### REQUESTS FOR DEFERRED EXAMS OR EXTENSIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DOCTOR'S NOTE OR EQUIVALENT.

### Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.)."

### Tentative Topic Outline, Readings and Schedule of Presentations

DATE	Topic	Chapters/ Readings/Videos
Sept. 8-12	<b>Lecture: Introduction &amp; Research Methods</b>  <b>Hot Topic Discussion: Relationships in the Past</b> A discussion of marriage, sex, and parent-child relationships during the middle ages.  <b>CULTURE COMPARISON ASSIGNMENT:</b> Watch any one of the 4 assigned Hindi films and be prepared to discuss it in class September 26. <b>Culture comparison paper due in class on that date, as well</b> (see outline for more detail).	Miller ch. 1, 2  <b>Videos:</b> Bewafaa, Kisna, Veer-Zara, Devdas
Sept. 15-19	<b>Lecture: Attraction</b>  <b>Hot Topic Discussion: Mate Selection &amp; Personal Ads</b> Bring examples of personals ads from the newspaper or web. Be prepared to analyze them in terms of the "social commodities" that women and men are seeking in a mate and offering to a mate.	Miller ch. 3  <b>Article:</b> <i>Sexual strategies theory: Historical origins and current status.</i> (Buss)
Sept. 19	<b>Last day for registration and change of registration. No fee refunds for withdrawals after this date.</b>	
Sept. 22-26	<b>Lecture: Love</b>  <b>Video: Arranged Marriages</b>  <b>CULTURE</b>	Miller ch. 8  <b>Hot Topic Discussion: Culture and Love/Marriage.</b>

<b>COMPARISON ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>	<b>CULTURE COMPARISON ASSIGNMENT DUE BEGINNING OF CLASS SEPT. 26</b>	
Sept. 29-Oct. 3	<p><b>Lecture: Social Cognition</b></p> <p>Each group will be responsible for reading one article from the assigned readings (TBA) and preparing a brief, informal presentation as part of a discussion of the importance of relationships for understanding cognition, emotion, and behaviour. Preparation will take place in class on Monday. The discussion will take place on Wednesday.</p> <p><b>Group 1 presents: Implicit theories of relationships</b></p>	<p>TBA (see Blackboard) Miller ch. 4</p> <p><b>Article:</b> <i>Implicit theories of relationships: Assessment and prediction of romantic relationship initiation, coping and longevity.</i> (Knee)</p>
<p>Oct. 6-10</p> <p><b>500 WORD SUMMARY FOR PAPER DUE</b></p>	<p><b>Lecture: Communication</b></p> <p><b>Group 2 presents: Flirtation.</b></p> <p><b>500 WORD SUMMARY FOR PAPER DUE Oct. 10</b></p>	<p>Miller ch. 5</p> <p><b>Article:</b> <i>Perceiving flirtatious communication: An exploration of the perceptual dimensions underlying judgments of flirtatiousness</i> (Abrahams)</p>
Oct. 13	<b>No classes – Thanksgiving</b>	
Oct. 15-17	<p><b>Lecture: Sexuality</b></p> <p><b>Guest presentation on sexuality (CRHA: Heather Cobb) (tentative)</b></p>	Miller ch. 9
<p>Oct. 20-24</p> <p><b>250 WORD SUMMARY FOR PAPER DUE</b></p>	<p><b>Lecture: Friendship and Intimacy</b></p> <p><b>Group 3 presents: Same-sex friendships.</b></p> <p><b>250 WORD SUMMARY FOR PAPER DUE OCT. 24</b></p>	<p>Miller ch. 7</p> <p><b>Article:</b> <i>Re-examining gender differences in same gender friendships: A close look at two kinds of data.</i> (Duck &amp; Wright)</p>
Oct. 27-31	<p><b>Lecture: Stresses and Strains</b></p> <p><b>Group 4 presents: Deception.</b></p>	<p>Miller ch. 10</p> <p><b>Article:</b></p>

		<i>Deception in romantic relationships: Subjective estimates of success at deceiving and attitudes toward deception. (Boon &amp; McLeod)</i>
Nov. 3-7	<b>Lecture: Power</b>  <b>Sexual harassment officer presents to class Nov. 5</b>  <b>Video (Nov. 7): Spin The Bottle: Sex, Lies &amp; Alcohol</b>	Miller ch, 11
Nov. 8-11	<b>Reading Days—no classes</b>	
Nov. 12-14	<b>Lecture: Interdependency</b>  <b>Group 5 presents: Allocation of household tasks.</b>  <b>PAPERS DUE BEGINNING OF CLASS NOV. 14</b>	Miller ch. 6  <b>Article:</b> <i>The allocation of household labor in gay, lesbian, and heterosexual married couples. (Kurdek)</i>
Nov. 17-21	<b>Lecture: Conflict and Violence</b>  <b>Group 6 presents: Conflict.</b>	Miller ch. 12  <b>Article:</b> <i>Relationship conflict (Canary &amp; Messman)</i>
Nov. 24-28	<b>Lecture: Dissolution and Loss</b>  <b>Group 7 presents: Divorce.</b>	Miller ch. 13  <b>Article:</b> <i>*Dan Quayle was right (Whitehead)</i>
Dec. 1-5	<b>Lecture: Loneliness/Fostering Relationships</b>  <b>Group 8 presents: Artificial Social Relationships.</b>  <b>FINAL EXAM POSTED DECEMBER 5 (TAKE HOME)</b>	Miller ch. 14, 15  <b>Article:</b> <i>Imaginary relationships: An exploratory study of celebrity-admirer relationships. (Boon &amp; Lomore)</i>
Dec. 4	Last day to allocate Bonus Credits to Fall Session half courses.	

<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>Last day of lectures for Fall Session. Last day to withdraw.</b>
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b><i>FINAL EXAM DUE AT THE PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE NO LATER THAN 4:00</i></b>

\* denotes longer readings. Please leave adequate time for reading them.

### **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test**

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam. A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. The demand for timeslots may exceed the

supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **December 4, 2008**.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and still receive a fee refund is **September 19, 2008**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5, 2008**.