

Texas A&M University-Texarkana
PSY 320 ~ Intimate Relationships

Spring 2012 ~ January 18th – May 9th

Instructor: Mary Mickens, MS LPC
Lecture: Wednesday 6:00-8:45pm
E-mail: mary.mickens@tamut.edu

Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA
Messages: 903-903-1051

Course Description

This course will encourage students to develop an understanding and appreciation for the underlying psychological, sociological and personal factors affecting the development, maintenance and dissolution of intimate relationships today. Commonly, much of the popular psychology offered through the media is misleading and unsubstantiated when compared to current psychological research.

Through our text and lecture materials, students should see the importance of psychological theory in understanding relationships, and see that close relationships are affected by a wide range of issues such as interpersonal communication, ecological factors, and evolutionary processes. This course will rely heavily on social psychological theory and its application to understanding relationships.

Course Objectives

Through various readings and lectures students are able to

- ❑ define the nature and basic processes of intimate relationships
- ❑ identify the social context and influences that affect intimate relationships:
- ❑ understand the issues in intimate relationships
- ❑ understand the requirement for maintaining and repairing intimate relationships

Required Readings:

Intimate Relationships by Miller Rowland (Sixth Edition) Published by McGraw Hill.
ISBN#: 9780078117152

Evaluation of assignments and exams

Exams (4)..... 50pts ea =	200 pts	Scale:
Application Paper =	100 pts	A: 450-500
Journal reviews (2) (50 pts ea) =	100 pts	B: 400-449
Class presentation 100pts =	<u>100 pts</u>	C: 350-399
	500 pts	D: 300-349
		F: below 299

Grading Procedure, late papers, absences:

Grades will be assigned based on points from the exams, reviews, oral presentations.

Grade equivalencies

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F < 60

Assignments handed in late will be penalized one letter grade per class session. Please be responsible and prompt.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Besides attending class, students are expected to stay the entire class period. Permission to take exams at times other than those listed will be extended only in extreme circumstances and must be requested prior to the exam. Please contact the instructor as soon as you are aware any problems with exam dates listed.

Journal Article Reviews and Format

Journal reviews are to be selected from professional journal in the area of the behavioral sciences. The subject area should be from the chapters we are studying. Please use general APA guidelines for Reviews and Application paper:

For example, your papers will be typed, double-spaced on standard-sized paper (8.5" x 11") with 1" margins on all sides. I prefer the use of 10-12 pt. Times New Roman font or a similar font. Quick internet reference – www.owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

Name of Journal

Title of Article, Vol. Date, Page numbers*

Author(s)

1. Provide a narrative of the purpose and overview of the study
2. Summary of author's conclusions and recommendations
3. Critical comments concerning design, sample, generalizations, etc.
4. Your personal response – the most powerful learning as they apply to you

*Attach copy of the article

Application Paper:

You will be required to write a 6-8 page (double spaced) reflective application paper utilizing a theory covered in class that you found particularly interesting. In this paper, discuss the relevant background and past/current relationship(s) of yourself or, if you are uncomfortable discussing yourself, a close friend while applying theory to the relationship(s).

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary actions." For additional information see the university policy manual.

Disability Accommodation

Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

Drop Policy

University Drop Policy: To drop this course after the 12th class day, a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website <http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html>) or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (P. O. Box 5518, Texarkana, TX 75505) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Tentative class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1	January 18	Introduction/Syllabus – Group Gathering
Week 2	January 25	Attachment styles. Attraction. Influences <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 1. The building blocks of relationships.• Chapter 3. Attraction.
Week 3	February 1.	Social cognition. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 4. Social cognition.• Group presentations
Week 4	February 8	Exam #1 Chapters 1, 3, 4
Week 5	February 15	Library work evening.
Week 6	February 22	Verbal and nonverbal communication. Disclosure. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 5. Communication• Group presentations
Week 7	February 29	Social exchange. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 6. Interdependency #1 Article Review due
Week 8	March 7	Friendship. . <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 7. Friendship.• Group Presentations
Week 9	March 14	No class. Spring Break.
Week 10	March 21	Exam #2 Chapters 5, 6, 7 Chapter 8. Love Love. Types of love. More on attachment styles
Week 11	March 28	Chapter 10 – Stresses and Strains <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Presentations• #2 Article Review Due
Week 12	April 4	Conflict and violence. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 11
Week 13	April 11	Exam #3 Chapters 8, 10, 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 12. Power• Group presentations

Week 14	April 18	Application paper due. Breakups. Divorce. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13. The dissolution and loss of relationships.
Week 15	April 25	Repairing relationships. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14. Maintaining and repairing relationships.
Week 16	May 2	Final Exam. Chapters 12, 13, 14

.....

Note: According to the needs of the class, the professor reserves the right to make changes in the class syllabus. Students will be notified promptly when or as changes are made.

Texas A&M University-Texarkana is committed to the continuous improvement of the quality of instruction. Student input is critical to that process and will be obtained through a survey instrument administered at the end of the semester.