

Psychology 2000: Interpersonal Relationships

T-Th: 8:30-9:45

Weber State University - Spring 2009

Syllabus and Course Outline

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Office Hours: M-W-F: noon-12:30

TR: 9:00-10:00

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Hendrick, S. S. (2004). *Understanding Close Relationships*, Allyn & Bacon

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to teach skills needed to have healthier, more enjoyable relationships. Such skills include increased self-awareness, increased awareness of others, listening, and expressing oneself.

OBJECTIVES:

Increased Self-awareness

Success in interpersonal relationships relies heavily on self-awareness. This includes being aware of your "buttons," the impact you have on others, and the effect the environment has on you.

Increased Awareness of Others

Relationships are clearly a two-way street. It is important to be able to "read" where others are at in terms of their relationships with you. This awareness can help you decide what behaviors would be appropriate, given the situation.

Enhanced Listening Skills

Listening is an important key to understanding where others are coming from. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to listen effectively. Hopefully, this class will help you refine further your ability to truly listen to others.

Enhanced Communication Skills

If we are to have our needs met, it is imperative that we communicate them to others. Unfortunately, we often expect that others will somehow "just know" where we are at and what we need. It is the goal of this course to help you communicate your feelings, thoughts, and needs to others in a way that will maximize the chance that they will be receptive to what you have to say.

Personal Development

Here is where we hope that the knowledge learned in the above objectives will carry over into your daily life. It is difficult, if not impossible, for the principles learned in to affect and enhance your daily functioning.

GRADING:

All students will have a chance to earn an "A." The instructor does not use a "bell curve" when determining grades. The following point system will be used.

<u>Modality</u>	<u>Point value</u>	<u>Percent of Final Grade</u>
Exam I	150	15%
Exam II	150	15%
Exam III	150	15%
Exam IV	150	15%
In-Class Writing Assignments (8)	200	20%
<u>Oral Presentation</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	1000 points	100%

Grading Scale:

A 920+, A- 900-919, B+ 880-899, B 820-879, B- 800-819, C+ 780-799,
C 720-799, C- 700-719, D+ 680-699, D 620-679, D- 600-619, F 0-599

Exams:

The exams will consist of matching and multiple choice questions. They are not comprehensive, and will be designed to last approximately 50 minutes.

The exams will be available on ChiTester in any WSU Testing Center. Please note that you will need to show a picture ID (e.g. drivers' license, WSU ID) and that you will need to arrive at least 1 hour before the Testing Center closes. You can take the exams at times that are convenient to you, provided that they are completed within the days specified in your course outline. Since you have several days to complete your exams, **LATE EXAMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT A 20% PENALTY EXTRACTED FROM YOUR SCORE.** It will be your responsibility to contact me to discuss postponing an exam. The exam **MUST** be completed within 2 business days after the closing date of the exam. **The decision to allow postponement of an exam or whether to impose a penalty is at the sole discretion of the instructor.**

In-Class Writing Assignments:

In-class writing assignments will be conducted randomly, 10 times during the semester. The purposes of these assignments are to gain writing experience and to interact with and apply the material learned to your daily functioning. **Since these assignments rely on class attendance, they cannot be made up.** However, you will be able to drop your 2 lowest writing scores. If you complete all 10 assignments, the

9th and 10th ones will be counted as extra credit.

Oral Presentation:

You will have the option of working alone or with another person for the presentation. You can choose the topic as long as 1) it discusses some aspect of relationships and 2) it is appropriate for a college level class. You will select one peer-reviewed, scientific journal article and give a 10 minute presentation if you present alone (15 minutes if you present with a partner). Various deadlines will need to be met as the semester approaches, and you can find these deadlines in your course outline. Additionally, the instructor will give you a handout explaining these and other details. You will be required to submit a handout consisting of an outline of your presentation and resource list to the professor and your classmates on the day of your presentation.

MISCELLANEOUS:

While every effort will be made to adhere to the course outline, all times, topics, and subjects covered will be at the professor's discretion and could change at any time. Advance notice will be given if a change is necessary.

Your instructor uses WebCT Vista extensively for all of her classes. You can use WebCT to access Powerpoint slides, exam review sheets, and to check your grades on the online gradebook. You are strongly encouraged to check your grades on a regular basis to ensure that you are properly receiving credit for your work. It is much easier to correct errors during the semester. If you notice an error, your instructor will be happy to correct it once you provide evidence of the mistake. Please keep everything your instructor returns to you, as this will be the necessary proof of an error.

Technology also makes it possible for your instructor to send an email to the entire class. Please make a habit of checking your WebCT email regularly, as I may use it to post announcements from time to time.

It is the instructor's expectation that the work you submit is in fact **your work**. Cheating on exams or plagiarizing work on papers or presentations will result in **immediate failure of the course**, as well as other possible disciplinary action. Plagiarism is representing the work of someone else as your own by taking sentences, paragraphs, or sections from other sources without using quotation marks or appropriate references. Please consult the instructor if you have any questions about appropriate referencing of material.

Appropriate classroom behavior is vital to a productive learning environment. Behaviors such as a) arriving late, b) leaving early, c) holding private conversations, d) sleeping, e) reading other material, f) allowing your pager or cell phone to be audible in class, g) receiving calls on your cell phone, or h) doing activities other than

those that are part of this class are very rude and distracting to the instructor and your peers. The instructor will intervene with such behaviors as appropriate. If they persist, offending students will be encouraged to drop the course.

Disability Notice:

Any student needing accommodations or services due to a learning disability must contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 801-626-6413. The office is located in Room 181 of the Student Services Center.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
1/6	Intro to Class/Importance of Relationships	
1/8	Importance of Relationships	Ch1
1/13	Importance of Relationships	Ch1
1/15	Attraction and Relationship Development Choose Presentation Topic & Partner	Ch2
1/20	Attraction and Relationship Development	Ch2
1/22	Exam I: 1/21-1/23: No Class Thursday	
1/27	Friendship and Social Support	Ch3
1/29	Friendship and Social Support	Ch3
2/3	Romantic Love	Ch4
2/5	Romantic Love	Ch4
2/10	Romantic Love	Ch4
2/12	Exam II: 2/11-2/13: No Class Thursday	
2/17	Relational Sexuality	Ch5
2/19	Relational Sexuality Presentation Article Due (Hard Copy)	Ch5
2/24	Communication & Relational Maintenance	Ch6
2/26	Communication & Relational Maintenance	Ch6
3/3	Conflict and Abuse	Ch7
3/5	Conflict and Abuse	Ch7

Spring Break 3/9-3/13

3/17	Exam III: 3/16-3/28: No Class Tuesday	
3/19	Breakup, Divorce, & Bereavement	Ch8
3/24	Breakup, Divorce, & Bereavement	Ch8
3/26	INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE-WORK ON PRESENTATION	
3/31	Diverse Relationships	Ch9
	Presentation Outline Due	
4/2	Diverse Relationships	Ch9
4/7	Gender	Ch10
4/9	Gender	Ch10
4/14	Presentations	
4/16	INSTRUCTOR AT RMPA	
4/21	Presentations	
4/23	Presentations	

Exam IV: 4/23-4/28