



PSY 460: Intimate Relationships

Love is Not a Disney Movie: Deconstructing the "Fairy Tale"

Online Format



Professor Contact Information

Professor: Dr. R. Genthos
Office Hrs: T 1:30 – 3:00;
 W 3:00- 4:30
 By appointment

Office: Spalding Hall (SPH) Room 209
Office Phone: 208-792-2631
Email: rgenthos@lcmail.lscs.edu

Voice Mail: Include 1. Your name 2. The class in question 3. A *detailed* explanation for why you are calling. *An audio file of your VM sent to my email.

Email: Include: 1) a subject line with “**PSY 460 Intimate Relationships**” included, 2) a salutation, 3) detailed, descriptive content about the reason for contact, and 4) signature w/ full name. While I often check my email when off-campus, **do not assume that I will view an email outside of Monday – Friday; 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** If at all possible, please try to plan ahead when sending me requests, notifications, or other information. Example: If an assignment is due on a Thursday, do not expect a speedy response from me if you email Wednesday night. Allow 48 hours before sending a reminder, as there are times I will need to gather information in the background or investigate before responding. I take Saturday as a mental health day for self-care; you will rarely hear back from me on weekends.

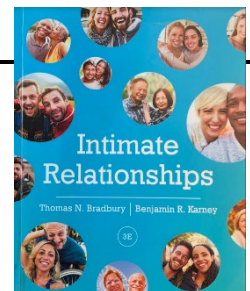
Course Materials

Required Textbook:

Bradbury, T. N. & Kearney, B. R. (2019). *Intimate Relationships* (3rd Ed).
 New York: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 9780393640250

Note: A copy of the textbook will be available in the library to be checked out for 3-hr intervals.

Required Technology: Computer, Keyboard, Mouse, Chrome Web browser, Microsoft Word, Zoom, Google Meet (for Office Hours)



Course Description & Objectives

An examination of historical and contemporary theories, findings, and perspectives of the social psychology of relationship science. Using an evolutionary framework for interpreting intimate relationships, the course will use traditional lecture format in addition to seminar-styled sessions (via empirical articles) to explore topics such as research methods, attraction, the self, social cognition, communication, interdependency, friendships, love, sexuality, conflict, communication, singlism, polyamory, stress, power, aggression, sex, LGBT relationships, rejection, loneliness, relationship stressors, and pro-relationship processes. Social psychological theory, processes, and concepts in regard to intimate relationships will be considered and synthesized via round-table discussion, and will be applied via the analysis of popular media (e.g. film). Pre-requisite: PSYC 101 or PSYC 205; permission of instructor. 3.00 credits.

After this course, you will be able to:

1. Recognize classic theories, current research, and common methods in the field of relationship science.
2. Analyze and interpret results of empirical studies to comprehend concepts and principles of psychological science.
3. Identify relationship science in everyday life & pop culture and evaluate it according to the course principles.
4. Synthesize a body of empirical findings and apply conclusions to issues relevant to everyday life.
5. Reflect on your relationships and assess when the appropriateness of applying findings from relationship.
6. Apply and present how course concepts relate to a motion picture of your choice.

Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements

***Note:** *The theme for the course revolves around romantic comedy movies (and their promotion of inaccurate, harmful, and constrictive beliefs, schemas, and scripts). Expect to see terminology and concepts related to screen writing, screen play, and movie production & viewing. When related, I will describe terminology so that the metaphors add as much meaning as possible to your course experience.*

Know Your Audience & Syllabus Quiz (25pts). Two short assignments, a blog discussion post on Canvas and quiz on course requirements, will be due within the first two days of class. These assignments aim to 1) introduce yourself to me and the rest of the class, and 2) make sure you are aware of the general format of the course.

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Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements (cont'd)

Screenplay Logline Discussion Posts (100 pts). For each unit of material (N = 12), you will be invited to submit a discussion post that centers around a "screenplay logline" or brief, concise premise of a theme from the content. I will give you a prompt (e.g. simple objects that are gendered in our society) and you will be asked to submit various media (video, picture, vlog, movie scene) as examples of course concept found in everyday life (e.g. picture of someone using a mixing spoon; associated with baking and women). These will be due towards the beginning of a unit and will be based on your *lay non-scientific* understanding. Avoid looking in the textbook or at scholarly sources and draw your own experience. You are required to turn in 10 out of the 12 discussion posts. For certain posts, you will be required to interact with material posted by other students. Detailed directions will be provided for each post and will vary slightly each week. I highly encourage you to check these out well in advance of the due date so that you can be detailed, creative, ironic, or witty (but respectful) with your posts. **Due on Monday by 11:59 p.m.**

Screenplay Treatment w/Empirical Articles (Journal Analyses; 75 pts). Throughout the semester, you will be asked to complete an empirical analysis "journal" If you decide to submit a fourth analysis, your lowest journal entry grade will be dropped. There are six articles from which you can choose, allowing you to choose among the different experiences you have. You **MUST** turn in two screenplay treatment (journal analysis of an empirical article) before the start of Week 8 or you will receive a 10-point deduction from this grade (this policy exists to help keep you from procrastinating and saving all three analyses for the end of the semester. Each journal entry will be 2 1/2 – 3 pages long and include an overview, thematically structured body, and a conclusion. A relevant guide will be passed out, discussed, and available on Canvas. *Two journal entries must be completed by Monday 10/17 11:59 p.m. Empirical articles, discussion guides, and rubrics will be posted on each Canvas portal.

Movie Analysis Presentation (100/300). This will be application assignment and a chance for you to apply the knowledge you have gained in the course to a movie that contains principles, theories, and other topics involved in the scientific study of Intimate Relationships. At the end of the semester, you will present a formal analysis of a movie of your choice in the form of an audio/visual presentation. You must use some of form of technology (e.g. PPT, Prezi, etc.) Presentations will be 5-6 minutes in length. Although you may choose the movie, I will also provide guidance in class on the types of movies to consider, including the suggestion of specific titles. Presentations must contain content from at least 2 of the 3 sections of the course. A detailed outline and sample submissions from past students will be provided to help guide you through the assignment.

Exams (3 exams, 100 pts each; 300 pts). There will be three closed-book, proctored exams during the semester. Exams will consist of primarily multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, and short answer questions. They will cover material from the assigned readings, discussions, and lecture / class activities. Although my lecture videos focus on the content from the assigned textbook, there will be some information from the text that I do not touch on in class and some lecture material that you will not find in the text. To earn an A, you must be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the concepts and an ability to apply the concepts; being able to recognize and/or reiterate definitions will not suffice. In general, exams will include only new material covered since the previous exam. However, some topics build on previous topics, and as such, older topics may come up again on later exams (e.g., to answer a question pro-relationship processes, you must understand and apply content covered in the relationship cognition chapter).

****Your final exam will be an optional retake of Exam 1, 2, or 3: no make-ups offered w/o documentation or communication of extenuating circumstances.**

***IMPORTANT: Exams must be proctored in an approved testing location or approved proctor. We are no longer allowed to use Respondus Lockdown Browser + Monitor for at home proctoring unless there are extreme, documented, extenuating circumstances.**

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Intimate Relationships Grading Schedule

Assignment	Points
Know Your Audience	____/10
Syllabus Quiz	____/15
Exam 1	____/100
Exam 2	____/100
Exam 3	____/100
Screenplay Logline	____/100
Journal Analyses	____/75
Movie Analysis	____/100
Total:	____/600

Grading Scale Breakdown

A	4.0	100 – 93
A-	3.67	92.99 – 90
B+	3.33	89.99 – 87
B	3.0	86.99 – 83
B-	2.67	82.99 – 80
C+	2.33	79.99 – 77
C	2.0	76.99 – 73
C-	1.67	72.99 – 70
D+	1.33	69.99 – 67
D	1.0	66.99 – 60
F	0.0	Below 60

Course Policies

Extra Credit. Extra credit will be offered in the following ways: 1) extra credit quizzes at the end of each unit, 2) Attending certain LCSC events, online events, public events (up to 5 events at 2 points each; 1 point for summary; 1 pt for applying intimate relationship concepts), 3) Submitting journal analyses to the writing center (+ 1, documentation required), and 5) brief homework assignments in various units. I will not create extra credit specifically for individual students, and thus it is in your best interest to be attentive to your grade at the beginning of the semester. ☺

Assignment Submission. Journal analyses and other assignments will be submitted via Canvas in the form of a Word compatible file titled with last name, first initial, 460 & assignment title (e.g. Taylor_J_460_Fraley&Shaver_1) by 11:59 pm on the relevant due date. It is critical that you factor in the amount of time that it will take you to upload your assignment using the Canvas portal. Papers that are time stamped past 11:59 pm will receive an automatic 5% deduction. You may only submit assignments up to 5 days late and 5% will be deducted for each day it is late. If the link to submit the assignment is not available on Canvas, I will not accept the assignment. **All submissions will be APA style, double-spaced with one-inch margins and use an APA-approved font. Journal analyses will always be due one week after the discussion as occurred by 11:59 p.m. to the relevant Canvas portal.**

Make-up/Late Assignment and Exam Policy. You will be given an optional retake of exam 1, 2, or 3 as your final, thus no make-up exams will be offered. I accept assignments up to five (5) days late with no questions asked. Other accommodations for missed exams or assignments deadlines will only be made under certain, extenuating circumstances (documentation may be requested) if the reason for your absence is made known to me within two (2) days of the absence/due date. Circumstances automatically considered valid include documented illness, college-sanctioned travel, death of a loved one, or the observance of a religious or spiritual holy day. I may also deem certain life events as “extenuating”. For those excuses I deem valid, including those listed above or supported by documentation, no deduction of points will be taken. All other excuses will result in a 5% penalty for each day it is past the deadline/original completion date. It would be in your best interest to make all reasonable efforts to notify me of an absence in advance. I know that life happens and appreciate honesty. The important thing is that you communicate with me. If you slept in, tell me. If you had a flat tire, I want to know. Please do not waste your time, or mine, making up excuses. I know life happens and want to cultivate open, authentic communication. I always consider the date you sent the email or called, NOT when I received your communication. You will be allowed one “freebie” for a journal analysis or a discussion post: you can turn in a journal analysis assignment five days late with no penalty as long as you notify me in person or via email 12 hours *before* the deadline.

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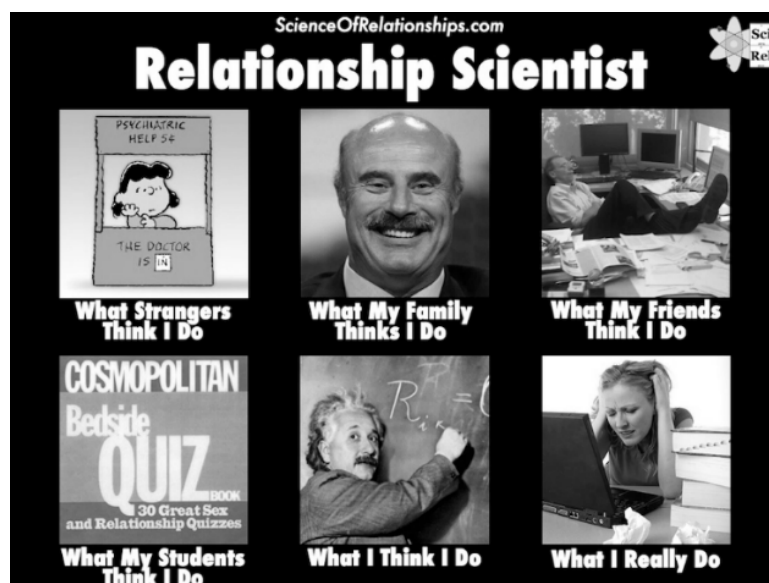
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Statement about Academic Dishonesty, Misconduct and Consequences. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, fabrication, collusion, and plagiarism, is not tolerated at LCSC. **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. "Academic exercise" includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours. **Fabrication:** Intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source of any information in an academic exercise. **Collusion facilitating academic dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of Academic Dishonesty. **Plagiarism:** the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, or statements of another person as one's own without proper acknowledgement. If you are suspected of cheating, fabrication, collusion or plagiarism, I will take immediate action. You will first have a meeting with me about the academic exercise in question (exam, writing assignment). Evidence of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade for that assignment for any student(s) involved. You will then be interviewed by Dr. Andrew Hanson, Vice President for Student Affairs, about the incident. The incident will be kept on file by Dr. Hanson's office and may provide stand-alone or supportive evidence for expulsion or suspension.

A Cautionary Note

As you read about relationships and reflect on them, you may find yourself noticing and thinking about your own relationships and those of people to whom you are close. Efforts to understand what is happening in these relationships can facilitate your learning of the material you are studying – and this is great! ☺ However, I urge you not to take on the role of "expert" or "therapist" in your own relationships or those of other people, interpreting people's behavior and explaining to others what it means. Not only is it inappropriate in your current role, it may also may be hurtful to those you love and care about. Instead, talk to people about what you are learning and solicit their ideas and observations to extend your own understanding of relationships and course material.



Check 5 to Thrive: I am here to guide and support you, and welcome your questions or inquiries. Before you decide to contact me, if you have a question about course content, an assignment, etc. Please check....

1. The syllabus
2. The information on Canvas (assignment portal, general directions, links)
3. The (video) instructions
4. The guide or rubric to the assignment in question
5. The course Q & A

* Please wait to get in touch with me with questions, comments, concerns, or notifications after you have gone through this process. In a time-crunch, if your question can easily be answered by one of these aspects, I will prioritize other requests.

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Course Schedule				
** Subject to Change at the Discretion of Professor**				
Wk	Day	Date	Unit Topic	Background Reading Exams & Assignments Bold <i>*discussion posts due Mon 11:59</i> <i>*Journal Analyses due Thu 11:59 p.m.</i>
1	Tue	August 23 nd	1. Love & Why It Matters 2. Relationship Cognition	Know Your Audience Discussion Post T 11:59pm Syllabus Quiz Thu 11:59 p.m. Ch. 1 & 12
	Thu	25 th		
2	Tue	30 th		
	Thu	September 1 st	3. Attachment & Evolutionary Perspectives; 4. Research Methods	Ch. 2 Part I; Ch. 3 Empirical Article Option A
3	Tue	6 th		
	Thu	8 th	5. Gender	Ch. 4 Empirical Article Option B
4	Tue	September 13 th		
	Thu	15 th		
5	Tue	20 th		
	Thu	22 nd	Exam 1 Open Wed 9/21 – Fri 9/23	Ch. 1-5, 12, articles
6	Tue	27 th	7. Interdependence	Reading Provided
	Thu	29 th		
7	Tue	October 4 th	8. Romantic Attraction	Ch. 7 Empirical Article Option D
	Thu	6 th		
8	Tue	October 11 th	9. Sexual Intimacy	Ch. 9 Empirical Article Option E
	Thu	13 th		
9	Tue	18 th	10. Singlism & 11. Relationship Structures 12. (LBTQ+ Close Relationships	DePaulo & Morris, 2005; Moors et al. 2017 Peplau & Fingerhut, 2007 Empirical Article Option E
	Thu	20 th		
10	Tue	25 th		
	Thu	27 th	Exam 2 Open Wed 10/26 – Fri 10/28	Ch. 7, 9, Provided Readings, Empirical Articles
11	Tue	November 1 st	13. Communication & Conflict	Ch. 8 & 10 Empirical Article Option F
	Thu	3 rd		
12	Tue	November 8 th	14. Relationship Stressors Jealousy & Infidelity	Ch. 11 Empirical Article Option G
	Thu	10 th		
13	Tue	15 th	15. Rejection & Loneliness Social Support	Reading Provided
	Thu	17 th		
Thanksgiving Break			No Classes	
14	Tue	29 th	16. Improving Relationships	Ch. 15 Film Analysis Video Presentation Due
	Thu	December 1 st		
15	Tue	6 th	Exam 3 Open Wed 12/7 – Fri 12/9	Ch. 10, 11, 15, Reading Provided, Empirical Articles
	Thu	8 th		
16	Tue-Wed	12 th – 13 th	Optional Retake (Final) Open Mon 12/12 – Tue 12/13	Retake of Exam 1, 2 or 3