

**George Mason University – Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 466-001 & WMST 300-005 Psychology of Intimate Relationships (3 credits)**  
**Fall 2006 - Wednesdays 4:30p-7:10p**  
**Location: Science & Tech I, Room 131**

**Instructor:** Christina Benedi, M.A.  
703-993-2380 – office      [cbenedi@gmu.edu](mailto:cbenedi@gmu.edu) –email  
**Office Hours:** Mondays 4-5p and by appointment

**Required Text:**

Lamanna, M.A. & Riedmann, A. (2005). *Marriages & Families: Making Choices in a Diverse Society, Ninth Edition*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

**Course Objectives:**

This course will present an advanced overview of theories and research related to intimate relationships, including romantic relationships, as well as relationships among family members and friends. It will encourage students to think critically about the components of healthy relationships, and prompt students to give careful consideration to choices they make with regard to their intimate relationships.

**Grading** in this course will be based on the following:

1. **Class Participation (25 pts)** – Attend each class and complete all reading assignments from required text. This class is taught seminar-style. It is expected that each student will come to each class session prepared and that s/he will participate in small & large group discussions generated through class activities and lecture. Students will be deducted participation points for the course if they have more than one (1) unexcused absence during the semester.
2. **Journal Articles Review (20 pts)** – Students will review three (3) current professional journal articles related to intimate relationships and write a 3-5 page APA-format summary.
3. **Group Presentation (30pts)** – Each group will select a topic related to intimate relationships and give a 30 minute in-class presentation. Students are encouraged to present their material in a creative manner, using technology, art, role-play, poetry, music, or interactive methods. Each group will turn-in a 1 page summary of their presentation and a reference list.
4. **Final Exam (25 pts)** – This take-home exam will be comprehensive and cumulative.

**Scale:**

A+	100-97	C+	77-79	F	0-59
A	93-96	C	73-76		
A-	90-92	C-	70-72		
B+	87-89	D+	67-69		
B	83-86	D	63-66		
B-	80-82	D-	60-62		

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**Honor Code:**

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of George Mason University, and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the members of George Mason University, have set forth the following code of honor: Any student who is caught in the act of cheating, attempting to cheat, plagiarizing, or stealing will be brought forth before a council of their peers. In the event that the individual is found guilty, he or she will be punished accordingly. For further information, please refer to the University catalog or website at [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

**Technology Use:**

GMU students must agree to abide by the University policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See <http://mail.gmu.edu> and click on Responsible Use of Computing at the bottom of the screen.

**Disabilities Policy:**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the GMU Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Please Note:**

Last day to add a class for Fall 2006 semester – September 12th

Last day to drop a class for Fall 2006 semester – September 29th

Students have the option of enrolling in PSYC 328 to earn an extra hour of course credit.

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Course Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
08/30	Course/syllabus overview & introductions Making Choices in a Diverse Society	Chapter 1
09/06	American Families Exploring the Family	Chapters 2 & 3
09/13	Our Gendered Identities	Chapter 4
09/20	Loving Ourselves & Others Our Sexual Selves	Chapters 5 & 6
09/27	Choosing a Marriage Partner	Chapter 7
10/04	Marriage, a Private & Public Relationship	Chapter 8 & 9
10/11	Alternatives to Marriage	Journal Reviews Due Guest Speaker
10/18	To Parent or Not to Parent Raising Children in a Diverse Society	Group 1 Group 2 Chapters 10 & 11
10/25	Work & Family	Group 3 Chapter 12
11/01	Communication & Conflict Management	Group 4 Chapter 13
11/08	Power & Violence in Relationships	Group 5 Chapter 14
11/15	Family Stress, Crises, & Resilience	Group 6 Chapter 15
11/22	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS	
11/29	Divorce: Before & After Remarriages & Step-Families	Group 7 & 8 Chapters 16 & 17
12/06	Aging Families: Loss, Grief, & Hope Semester Review & Take Home Final Exam Distributed	Chapter 18
12/13	Final Exam Due in my mailbox in Psych Dept by 5p	