

Psychology of Intimate Relationships (Psych 466)

Instructor: Jeffrey Volkmann M.A.
Location: Science and Technology 1 126
Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs 9:30-11:35 am

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Office Hours: Thursday 12-1 or by appointment

Required Texts:

Williams, B.K., Sawyer, S.C., & Wahlstrom, C.M. (2006) *Marriage Families & Intimate Relationships: A practical introductions.*

Gladwell, M. (2005) *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking.*

Course Overview:

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. The course will be very interactive, with lots of class discussion. Because we will be discussing our own intimate relationships I will do my best to maintain confidentiality. All assignments will be turned in with only your G# on each page. Only for in-class assignments will your names be collected.

Grades:

Reaction Papers: (60 pts) Papers are due at the beginning of class on the dates specified in the below course schedule. **Late papers will not be accepted.** There are 7 total reaction papers. These reaction papers will be short (**minimum of 2** and maximum of 3 typed pages) and should be just that – your reaction. The reaction should focus on an intimate relationship(s) and incorporate a concept from the either the Williams or Gladwell texts. You may talk about your own relationships or a relationship you have witnessed.

Reaction papers will be evaluated on: spelling, grammar, clarity, extent to which you demonstrate understanding of the concept you are discussing, extent to which the story/experience you are describing is related the concept, and the extent to which you have integrated your own thoughts and ideas. **Late assignments will not be accepted. You may drop your lowest grade.** All assignments must use 12 font (times new roman), be double spaced and stapled.

Group Presentation (100 pts) – Each group will select a topic related to intimate relationships and give a 20 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.

In Class Work: (140 pts) In addition to the reaction papers, the final project and final exam, there will be 15 in class assignments. The assignments will be completed in small groups. In class assignments cannot be made up. You will be allowed to drop your lowest in class grade. The due dates for the in class assignments are listed on course outline.

Final Exam (100 pts) Take home exam open book and open notes. Discussing the exam with other students is not allowed.

There will be a total of 200 pts

In class work: 10 points each (140) total points

Reaction Papers: 10 points each (60)

Group Project (100 pts)

Final Exam (100 pts)

COURSE TENTATIVE OUTLINE:

The readings are very important!!!

Date	Topic	Assignments Due	Readings
7/05	Introduction to texts and Syllabus;		
7/06	Begin Seeking Happiness in Relationships	In class assignment;	Williams, Chapter 1
7/10	Understanding (intimate behavior)	In class assignment: Reaction Paper (on any topic in chapter 1 or 2)	Williams, Chapter 2
7/11	Understanding (intimate behavior)/ Gender (meaning of masculinity and femininity)	In class assignment;	Williams, Chapter 2, 3
7/12	Gender (meaning of masculinity and femininity)/ Love	In class assignment;	Williams, Chapter 3, 4
7/13	Love/ Involvement (Dating, Pairing, Courtship & Cohabitation)	In class assignment; Reaction Paper (on any topic in chapter 3 or 4)	Williams, Chapter 4, 5
7/17	Involvement (Dating, Pairing, Courtship & Cohabitation)/ Discussion of Blink	In class assignment; Reaction Paper (on any topic in chapter 4, 5 or Blink)	Gladwell 1-48 Williams Chapter 5;
7/18	Sexuality (Interpersonal Sexuality, Sexual Values, & Behavior)	In class assignment;	Williams Chapter 6;
7/19	Marriage (The ultimate commitment?)	In class assignment;	Williams Chapter 7;
7/20	Variations (Nonmarital Families & Households)/ Discussion of Blink/ Discussion of Final Project	In class assignment; Reaction Paper (on any topic in chapter 6, 7 or Blink)	Williams Chapter 8; Gladwell 49-99
7/24	Communication (realizing effective intimacy)/ Discussion of Blink	In class assignment; Reaction Paper (on any topic in chapter 8,	Williams Chapter 9; Gladwell 100-147

		9 or Blink)	
7/25	Reproduction (Decisions about having or not having children)	In class assignment; work on presentations	Williams Chapter 10;
7/26	Parenting (Children, Families & Generations)	In class assignment; work on presentations	Williams Chapter 11;
7/27	Work (economics, jobs, & balancing family demands)	In class assignment; Reaction Paper (on any topic in chapter 10, 11, 12 or Blink)	Williams Chapter 12; Gladwell 147-189
7/31	Crisis (managing stress, disaster, violence, abuse and the <i>internet</i>)	In class assignment; work on presentations	Williams Chapter 13; TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT
8/1	Uncoupling (separation & divorce)	In class assignment; Reaction Paper (on any topic in chapter 13, 14 or Blink)	Williams Chapter 14; Gladwell 189-245
8/2	Remarriage (reinvented, renewed, & blended families)	In class assignment; work on presentations	Williams Chapter 15
8/3			Final Presentations/ Wrap Up
8/5		Final Exam Due by 5:00 pm in my mailbox in David King Hall	

Extra Credit: You may participate in psychology research projects for up to 5 hours of extra credit. Each hour will be worth 1 pt.

To sign up for an experiment, you must follow the following instructions:

1. log on to www.experimentrix.com/gmu and click on new user link
2. enter all the required information
 - a. don't include dashes in your SSN
 - b. use your GMU e-mail account (your password will be sent to this account). If you do not know your GMU e-mail account, log on to <http://www.gmu.edu/mlnavbar/finder/index.html> and enter your last name to find your GMU e-mail account
3. click on register

Your login and password will be sent to your GMU e-mail account. You will need to log on to the site to activate your account within 3 days or else you will need to re-register. Click 'log in' to access your account. You will need to select your course by clicking on the 'Edit your course Selection link' (Psyc 466 001). You can also edit your information (change your password, add an additional e-mail account, etc.).

University Honor Code Statement:

The University has established a clear Honor Code. The bottom line is: do NOT cheat, do NOT plagiarize, do NOT lie and do NOT steal. Any academic dishonesty including plagiarism will result in severe consequences. Under no circumstances are students to collectively write papers

or complete homework assignments. If you have questions about any aspect of proper conduct, please ask me.

Special Needs: I will do all I can to accommodate students with special needs. "If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office."

The add and drop deadlines for classes.

Last day to add – July 11th

Last day to drop – July 11th

Technology Use: Most lectures will be delivered using Power Point. The majority of communication will take place through campus email and WebCT. Please check it regularly. You can access Webct by using the following link
<https://webct41.gmu.edu/webct/public/home.pl>.

Grades:

<i>Grade</i>	Percentage	<i>Grade</i>	Percentage	<i>Grade</i>	Percentage	<i>Grade</i>	Percentage
A+	97 – 100	B+	87 – 89.9	C+	77 – 79.9	D+	67 – 69.9
A	93 – 96.9	B	83 – 86.9	C	73 – 76.9	D	63 – 66.9
A-	90 – 92.9	B-	80 – 82.9	C-	70 – 72.9	D-	60 – 62.9
						F	0 – 59.9

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus.