

SYLLABUS

Psychology 592-A Section C – The Psychology of Close Relationships Fall, 2007

Instructor: Prof. Carolyn Cutrona
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Office Hours: At ISBR 1:00 – 3:00 Mondays; 2:00 to 4:00 on Thursdays (Call or email ahead, please)
At Lago by appointment

Class time and location: Tues, Thurs 3:40 – 5:00 in Kildee 107

Class Website: <http://www.psychology.iastate.edu/faculty/ccutrona/psych592a>
(User id: Psych592a; Password: cutrona)

Course Objectives: To acquaint students with selected theories, basic research, and applied research in the area of close relationships and to increase students' skill and comfort in oral expression, critical analysis, and written communication through assignments and class discussions. Students will read both classic and recent journal articles and chapters on a wide range of topics in the field of close relationships.

Requirements:

1. Class Participation: Students are expected to attend every class session and to **come prepared to discuss the reading assignments for that session.** An important part of the learning experience (and the most fun) will be participation in class discussions. Once during the semester, each student will assist with leading the class discussion. The “student of the day” will be expected to participate even more actively than usual in the discussion, posing questions to the class and raising interesting issues for discussion, along with the instructor.

To highlight the importance of honing your verbal skills, part of your grade will be determined by the enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, and frequency (less important than thoughtfulness!) of your contributions to class discussion. **(15% of grade)**

2. Class Presentation: Each student will be responsible for half of one class period, in which he or she will present an overview of current theory and research on a topic of relevance to the course. You will be the instructor and your goal is to teach the class about your topic in a manner that is interesting, clear, and informative. PowerPoint is fine, but not required. The presentation will be on the same topic as the term paper, described below. One week before the presentation, the presenter will email the instructor one relevant reading. The instructor will put the reading on the class website. These readings will be part of the assigned readings for the entire class. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Student presentations will begin on November 8th and continue through December 6th. **(40% of grade)**

3. Term Paper: Each student will write a literature review on a topic relevant to the course (10-15 pages, typed, double-spaced, APA style). The paper will be on the same topic as your class presentation, but will go into greater depth than the presentation. Topics must be approved by the instructor. The paper will be due the MONDAY AFTER the last day of class (December 10). **(45% of grade)**

There will be no exams in this class.

**ASSIGNED READINGS
Psych 592-A, Fall, 2007**

August 21 and 23 – Instructor is out of town; No class.

THEORIES OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

August 28 – CLASSIC THEORIES

Hazan, C., & Shaver, P. (1987). Romantic love conceptualized as an attachment process. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 52, 511-524.

Rusbult, C. E., Drigotas, S. M., & Verett, J. (1994). The Investment Model. In D. J. Canary & L. Stafford (Eds.) *Communication and relational maintenance* (pp. 115-139). New York: Academic Press.

MENTAL HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS

August 30 – DSM-V and Relationship Problems

Beach, S. R. H., Wamboldt, M. Z., Kaslow, N. J., Heyman, R. E., & Reiss, D. (2006).

Describing relationship problems in DSM-V: Toward better guidance for research and clinical practice. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 20, 359-368.

Whisman, M. A., & Uebelacker, L. A. (2006). Impairment and distress associated with relationship discord in a national sample of married or cohabiting adults. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 20, 369-377.

CURRENT TRENDS IN RELATIONSHIPS

September 4 –COHABITATION

Cherlin, A. J. (2004). The deinstitutionalization of American marriage. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 66, 848-861.

Rhoades, G. K., Stanley, S. M., & Markman, Howard J. (2006). Pre-engagement cohabitation and gender asymmetry in marital commitment. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 20, 533-560.

Stanley, S. M. et al. (2006). Sliding Versus Deciding: Inertia and the Premarital Cohabitation Effect. *Family Relations*, 55, 499-509.

September 6 - ISBR Showcase; No Class

**September 11 –
MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE – PROBLEM OR NOT?**

Goldstein, J. R. (1999). The leveling of divorce in the United States. *Demography*, 36, 409-414.

Coltrane, S., & Adams, M. (2003). The social construction of the divorce “problem”: Morality, child victims, and the politics of gender. *Family Relations*, 52, 363-372.

Huston, T., & Melz, H. (2004). The case for (promoting) marriage: The devil is in the details. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 66, 943-958.

September 13 - - SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILIES

Kurdek, L. A. (2006). Differences between partners from heterosexual, gay, and lesbian cohabiting couples. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 68, 509-528.

Patterson, C. J. (2000). Family relationships of lesbians and gay men. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 62, 1052-1069.

September 18 – GLBT Panel

Peplau, L. A. (2001). Rethinking women’s sexual orientation: An interdisciplinary relationship-focused approach. *Personal Relationships*, 8, 1-19.

QUALITY IN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

September 20 – NEW TRENDS IN THE STUDY OF MARRIAGE

Fincham, F. D., Stanley, S. M., & Beach, S. R. H. (2007). Transformative processes in marriage: An analysis of emerging trends. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 69, 275-292.

September 25 –ACCOMMODATION

Rusbult, C. E., Verett, J., Shitney, G. A., Slovik, L. F., & Lipkus, I. (1991). Accommodation processes in close relationships: Theory and preliminary empirical evidence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 60, 53-78.

Stanley, S. M., Whitton, S. W., Sadberry, S. L., Clements, M. L., & Markman, H. J. (2006). Sacrifice as a predictor of marital outcomes. *Family Process*, 45, 289-303.

September 27 –FORGIVENESS

Fincham, F. D., Hall, J., & Beach, S.R.H. (2006). Forgiveness in marriage: Current status and future directions. *Family Relations*, 55, 415-427.

McCullough, M. E., Bono, G., & Root, L. M. (2007). Rumination, emotion, and forgiveness: Three longitudinal studies. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 92, 490-505.

Finkel, E. J., Burnette, J. L., & Scissors, L. S. (2007). Vengefully ever after: Destiny beliefs, state attachment anxiety, and forgiveness. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 92, 871-886.

October 2 – FORGIVENESS INTERVENTIONS

- Wade, N. (2005). But do they work? A meta-analysis of group interventions to promote forgiveness. In E. L. Worthington (Ed.) *Handbook of Forgiveness*, New York: Brunner Rutledge.
- Reed, G. L., & Enright, R. D. (2006). The effects of forgiveness therapy on depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress for women after spousal emotional abuse. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 74*, 920-929.

October 4 – RELIGIOSITY AND MARRIAGE

- Sullivan, K. T. (2001). Understanding the relationship between religiosity and marriage: An investigation of the immediate and longitudinal effects of religiosity on newlywed couples. *Journal of Family Psychology, 15*, 610-626.
- Lambert, N. M., & Dollahite, D. C. (2006). How religiosity helps couples prevent, resolve, and overcome marital conflict. *Family Relations, 55*, 439-449.

October 9 – SOCIAL SUPPORT

- Bolger, N., Zuckerman, A., & Kessler, R. C. (2000). Invisible support and adjustment to stress. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 79*, 953-961.
- Cutrona, C. E., Russell, D. W., & Gardner, K. A. (2005). The relationship enhancement model of social support. In T.A. Revenson, Kayser, K., & Bodenman, G. (Eds.) *Couples coping with stress*. (pp. 73-96). Wash. D.C.: American Psychological Association.

October 11 – COGNITIVE FACTORS IN MARITAL QUALITY

- Berger, A. R., & Janoff-Bulman, R. (2006). Costs and satisfaction in close relationships: The role of loss-gain framing. *Personal Relationships, 13*, 53-68.
- Fletcher, G. J. O., Simpson, J. A., & Thonmas, G. (2000). Ideals, perceptions, and evaluations in early relationship development. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 79*, 933-940.
- Lemay, E. P., Clark, M. S., & Feeney, B. C. (2007). Projection of responsiveness to needs and the construction of satisfying communal relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 92*, 834-853.

October 16 – OTHER PREDICTORS OF MARITAL QUALITY

- Gupta, S. (2007). Autonomy, dependence, or display? The relationship between married women's earnings and housework. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 69*, 399-417.
- Yeh, H.C., Lorenz, F. O., Conger, R. D., Wickrama, K.A.S., & Elder, G. H. (2006). Relationships among sexual satisfaction, marital quality, and marital instability at midlife. *Journal of Family Psychology, 20*, 339-343.
- Spotts, E. L., Prescott, C., & Kendler, K. (2006). Examining the origins of gender differences in marital quality: A behavior genetic analysis. *Journal of Family Psychology, 20*, 605-613

PROBLEMS IN RELATIONSHIPS

October 18: DEMAND-WITHDRAW PATTERNS IN COMMUNICATION

- Eldridge, K. A., Sevier, M., Jones, J., Atkins, D. C., & Christensen, A. (2007). Demand-withdraw communication in severely distressed, moderately distress, and nondistressed

couples: Rigidity and polarity during relationship and personal problem discussions. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 21, 218-226.

October 23 – CONFLICT PATTERNS

Gottman, J. M., Coan, J., Carrere, S., & Swanson, C. (1998). Predicting marital happiness and stability from newlywed interactions. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 60, 5-22.

Kim, H. K., Capaldi, D. M., & Crosby, L. (2007). Generalizability of Gottman and colleagues' affective process models of couples' relationship outcomes. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 69, 55-72.

October 25–INFIDELITY

Whisman, M. A., Gordon, K. C., & Catav, Y. (2007). Predicting sexual infidelity in a population-based sample of married individuals. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 21, 320-324.

Gordon, K. C., Baucom, D. H., & Snyder, D. K. (2004). An integrative intervention for promoting recovery from extramarital affairs. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 30, 213-231.

October 30- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Keenan-Miller, D., Hammen, C., & Brennan, P. (2007). Adolescent psychosocial risk factors for severe intimate partner violence in young adulthood. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 75, 456-463.

Frye, N. E., & Karney, B. R. (2006). The context of aggressive behavior in marriage: A longitudinal study of newlyweds. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 20, 12-20.

November 1 – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Fergusson, D. M., Horwood, L. J., & Ridder, E. M. (2005). Partner violence and mental health outcomes in a New Zealand birth cohort. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 67, 1103-1119.

Babcock, J. C., Green, C. E., & Robie, C. (2004). Does batterers' treatment work? A meta-analytic review of domestic violence treatment. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 23, 1023-1053.

RELATIONSHIP INTERVENTIONS

November 6 – Preventing relationship problems

Duncan, S. F., Holman, T. B., & Yang, C. (2007). Factors associated with involvement in marriage preparation programs. *Family Relations*, 56, 270-278.

Adler-Baeder, F., Kerpelman, J. L., Schramm, D. G., Higginbotham, B., & Paulk, A. (2007). The impact of relationship education on adolescents of diverse backgrounds. *Family Relations*, 56, 291-303

November 8 – Preventing relationship problems

Markman, H. J., Renick, M. J., Floyd, F. J., Stanley, S. M., & Clements, M. (1993). Preventing marital distress through communication and conflict management training: A 4- and 5-Year Follow-Up. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 61, 70-77.

Schulz, M. S., Cowan, C. P., & Cowan, P. A. (2006). Promoting healthy beginnings: A randomized controlled trial of a preventive intervention to preserve marital quality during the transition to parenthood. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 74, 20-31.

November 13 – Student Presentations

November 15 – Student Presentations

November 20 and 22 – Thanksgiving Break

November 27 – Student Presentations

November 29 – Student Presentations

December 4 – Student Presentations

December 6 – Student Presentations

DECEMBER 10 – TERM PAPERS DUE