

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PSY 424
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

COURSE OUTLINE SUMMER 2016

Instructors: Jessica Maxwell Room: Sidney Smith 51A
Phone: 416-978-3210
Office Hour: The half hour after class, or by appointment
Email: jessica.maxwell@utoronto.ca
Please use PSY 424 in the subject line of all email correspondence.

Teaching Assistants:
First half of the course (assignment 1 & midterm): Lisa Day Room: Sidney Smith 62
Office hours: by appointment only
Email: l.day@mail.utoronto.ca
Please use PSY 424 in the subject line of all email correspondence.

Second half of course (assignment 2 & final) Lindsey Cary Room: Sidney Smith 121
Office hours: by appointment only
Email: lindsey.cary@mail.utoronto.ca
Please use PSY 424 in the subject line of all email correspondence.

Instructor Office Hours: Professor office hours will be held after lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-5:30pm in room 51A, on the subground floor of Sid Smith. So if you have any questions or concerns, please come and talk to me during these hours. I am here to help! I am also happy to accommodate appointments at other times if you email me.

Lecture time: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm in **Sidney Smith 1069**

Required Text: None! This class does not have a textbook. Instead, short empirical research articles have been assigned for each class. These articles can be downloaded in pdf format from Blackboard. Required readings will be tested in depth on the term tests. Suggested readings will only be tested to the extent that they are covered in class.

In-Class Engagement: We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using laptops, Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, or through text message. Technical issues should be addressed to Top Hat support directly.

You can visit tinyurl.com/TopHatStudentGuide for the Student Quick Start Guide which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running. An email invitation will also be sent to your school email account (if you don't receive this email, you can register by visiting our course website tophat.com/e/139868). Top Hat will require a paid subscription of \$12 for unlimited access for the semester. A full breakdown of all options can be found at <http://www.tophat.com/pricing>.

Course Overview: The objective of this course is to review what relationship science can tell us about close relationships, particularly romantic relationships. We will explore questions such as, why do we want to be in relationships? What informs our choice of relationship partners? What predicts satisfaction and stability in relationships? What is the role of sexuality in relationships? And how can we become better romantic partners? These and other questions will be examined from a variety of theoretical perspectives, with an emphasis on where our scientific understanding of these topics currently stands and how it can be improved. Finally, each lecture will conclude with a “Scientist Segment” that will cover broader research-related skills.

Prerequisite courses: PSY201H1 (or equivalent); PSY220H1. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the Psychology section of the A&S Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED. No waivers will be granted.

Assessment: There are five modes of assessment for this course—participation (5%), a reflection on attachment in the media (15%), a midterm exam (25%), a research proposal (30%), and a final exam (25%).

- 1. Participation: (5%)** Using Top Hat’s interactive learning application, there will be questions and discussion asked throughout the term. Your final grade will be based on the proportion of questions that you *complete* (you are not marked on correctness). Thus, if you answer 80% of the questions asked throughout the term you will receive 4% (out of a possible 5%) for your final grade. It is your responsibility to make sure your phone/computer are fully charged and connected to the internet in order to respond to the questions throughout the lecture. ****When computing your final participation grade I will drop the lecture with your lowest participation score;** meaning you are allowed one “freebie” missed class.** This will be done automatically (so no need to email me). To be fair to all students, reasons for missing further classes will not be considered (except for extended illness with sufficient documentation).
- 2. Assignment 1: Attachment in the Media. (15%)** The goal of this assignment is to find and describe an example of a fictional character (from TV, movies, books, or a song) that is high in anxious attachment, and another character who is high in avoidant attachment. In a maximum of 4 (double-spaced) pages, please describe the characters’ behaviours that support your assessment of their attachment style, providing citations to support your assessment. Conclude with an argument (linking to the examples and broader research) on which form of insecure attachment you think is more detrimental to healthy relationships and why. *Note.* The two characters chosen do not need to be from the same TV show/movie/book/song. You can discuss the character’s attachment in *any* type of attachment relationship (e.g., romantic partner, friends, caregiver).

The assignment is due at 11:59pm on Sunday July 10th. The assignment is due electronically via the course’s Blackboard Portal webpage. See page 3 for submission instructions. **This assignment will be marked by Lisa Day** (l.day@mail.utoronto.ca)

- 3. Term Test 1. (25%).** The first exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions on Thursday July 14th. The exam will take place during class hours in

Exam Centre Room 310 and will include material from Lectures 1-5. **Term test 1 will be marked primarily by Lisa Day** (l.day@mail.utoronto.ca)

4. **Assignment 2: Research Proposal. (30%).** The research proposal assignment provides you with an opportunity to expand upon our current knowledge of a relationship topic by describing where you would take the research next. This assignment should be based on one of the required/suggested articles from any of the classes, or any of the studies mentioned in class. In a maximum of 4 (double-spaced) pages, please describe a new research direction that builds upon that paper. You should provide a rationale for your research question (why is this important to explore?), a sensible and feasible study design, hypothesized results, and theoretical and/or applied implications of these results. You will be graded based on the novelty of the research idea, the appropriateness of your research design, the potential impact of your predicted results, and the overall quality of your writing (i.e., organization, logical flow).

The assignment is due at 2pm (the beginning of class) on Thursday July 28th. The assignment is due electronically via the course's Blackboard Portal webpage. See page 3 for submission instructions. **The research proposal assignment will be marked by Lindsey Cary** (lindsey.cary@mail.utoronto.ca).

5. **Term Test 2. (25%).** The second exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. **This exam will take place during course hours** (NOT during the final examination period) on Thursday August 4th in Exam Centre room 300. This exam is cumulative, with a greater focus on material covered in the second half of the course. **Term test 2 will be marked primarily by Lindsey Cary** (lindsey.cary@mail.utoronto.ca).

Instructor Policies

Policy on missed tests: If the midterm/final exam is missed, appropriate documentation such as a medical certificate or college registrar's note (as well as a copy of the ROSI Absence Declaration) must be provided to the instructor within one week of the missed exam (See Faculty of Arts and Sciences Calendar). ***There are no make-up exams.*** If satisfactory documentation is provided, the missed test will be accounted for by increasing the value of the other three written pieces of assessment; the first assignment will be worth 20%, the second assignment worth 35%, and the remaining test worth 40%.

Policy on late assignments: Assignments that are submitted after the due date will still be graded, but a ***5% late penalty*** will be deducted for each late day, including weekends and holidays. The late penalty is calculated based on the 2pm due time (i.e., assignment two handed in before Friday at 2pm would be deducted 5%, Saturday before 2pm would be deducted 10%). Late assignments should be submitted via Blackboard Portal as usual.

Policy on page limits. Writing succinctly is an important part of our discipline, so we take page limits seriously. Please adhere to the page limits on writing assignments, as writing that goes beyond the page limits ***will not be read or graded.*** Page limits are set based on APA format: double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font.

Policy on discussing tests/assignments. If you have questions or concerns about the grading for a test or assignment, you must contact the person who marked the assignment/test within ***two weeks*** of it being returned to you.

Course website on Blackboard: I have constructed a course website via Blackboard which can be accessed by logging in to <http://portal.utoronto.ca>. Lecture notes will be posted here the night before each class. I will also post the syllabus, announcements, and useful links on the site.

Assignment Submission Instructions:

- Complete the assignment outside of Blackboard (e.g., Microsoft Word).
- Make sure that your assignment uses proper APA format, including 1-inch margins, Times New Roman 12-point font and double spacing.
- Please include either your name or your student number in the file name.
- From within our Blackboard page, go to the Course Materials page.
- Click on the relevant assignment.
- Attach your assignment by clicking on "Browse my computer" and selecting your document. Double check that the correct document is listed next to "Attached Files."
- Click "Submit." Selecting "Save as Draft" does not submit the assignment, and such saved assignments will not be considered for evaluation after the due date. You should receive a response which indicates that your paper has been submitted to the instructor.

University of Toronto Policies

Accessibility Needs: U of T is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>.

Writing: As a student here at the University of Toronto, you are expected to write well. The university provides its students with a number of resources to help them achieve this. For more information on campus writing centres and writing courses, please visit <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html).

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
1	Tues June 28 th	Course Introduction & The need to belong	None.
2	Thurs June 30 th	Attachment: From the cradle to the grave	<p><u>Required:</u> Zayas et al. (2011). Roots of adult attachment: Maternal caregiving at 18 months predicts adult peer and partner attachment. <i>Social Psychological and Personality Science</i>, 2, 289-297.</p> <p><u>Suggested:</u> Spielmann, S. S., Maxwell, J. A., MacDonald, G., & Baratta, P. L. (2013). Don't Get Your Hopes Up Avoidantly Attached Individuals Perceive Lower Social Reward When There Is Potential for Intimacy. <i>Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</i>, 39, 219-236.</p>
3	Tues July 5 th	What makes you swipe right? Romantic attraction	<p><u>Required:</u> Haselton et al. (2011). Can men detect ovulation? <i>Current Directions in Psychological Science</i>, 20, 87-92.</p> <p><u>Suggested:</u> Russell, V. M., McNulty, J. K., Baker, L. R., & Meltzer, A. L. (2014). The association between discontinuing hormonal contraceptives and wives' marital satisfaction depends on husbands' facial attractiveness. <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i>, 111, 17081-17086.</p>
4	Thurs July 7 th	When Two Become One: The formation of bonding and closeness	<p><u>Required:</u> Girme et al. (2014). "Date nights" take two: The maintenance function of shared relationship activities. <i>Personal Relationships</i>, 21, 125-149.</p> <p><u>Suggested:</u> O'Leary et al. (2012). Is long-term love more than a rare phenomenon? If so, what are its correlates? <i>Social Psychological and Personality Science</i>, 3, 241-249.</p>
	Sunday July 10th	Assignment 1: Attachment in the Media due on Blackboard at 11:59pm	
5	Tues July	You Belong with	<u>Required:</u>

	12th	Me: Commitment, monogamy, and non-monogamy	<p>Lavner et al. (2012). Do cold feet warn of trouble ahead? Premarital uncertainty and four-year marital outcomes. <i>Journal of Family Psychology</i>, 26, 1012-1017.</p> <p><u>Suggested:</u> Moors, A. C., Conley, T. D., Edelman, R. S., & Chopik, W. J. (2014). Attached to monogamy? Avoidance predicts willingness to engage (but not actual engagement) in consensual non-monogamy. <i>Journal of Social and Personal Relationships</i>, 32, 222-240.</p>
6	Thurs July 14th	Term Test 1 Location: Exam Centre room 310	
7	Tues July 19 th	Going to bed angry? Communication and conflict	<p><u>Required:</u> Salvatore et al. (2011). Recovering from conflict in romantic relationships: A developmental perspective. <i>Psychological Science</i>, 22, 376-383.</p> <p><u>Suggested:</u> Przybylski, A. K., & Weinstein, N. (2013). Can you connect with me now? How the presence of mobile communication technology influences face-to-face conversation quality. <i>Journal of Social and Personal Relationships</i>, 30, 237-246.</p>
8	Thurs July 21 st	Off and on(line) again? Guest Lecture by PhD Student Claire Midgley	<p><u>Required:</u> Le et al. (2010). Predicting nonmarital romantic relationship dissolution: A meta-analytic synthesis. <i>Personal Relationships</i>, 17, 377-390.</p> <p><u>Suggested:</u> Sbarra et al. (2012). When leaving your ex, love yourself: observational ratings of self-compassion predict the course of emotional recovery following marital separation. <i>Psychological Science</i>, 23, 261-269.</p>
9	Tues July 26 th	Let's get it on: Sexuality in committed relationships	<p><u>Required:</u> Muise, A., & Impett, E. A. (2015). Good, Giving, and Game The Relationship Benefits of Communal Sexual Motivation. <i>Social Psychological and Personality Science</i>, 6, 164-172.</p> <p><u>Suggested:</u> Day, L. C., Muise, A., Joel, S., & Impett, E. A. (2015). To</p>

			do it or not to do it? How communally motivated people navigate sexual interdependence dilemmas. <i>Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</i> , 0146167215580129.
10	Thurs July 28 th	<p>You bring out the best in me: Relationships and personal growth</p> <p>Assignment 2: Research Proposal Due on Blackboard</p>	<p><u>Required:</u> Bohns et al. (2013). Opposites fit: Regulatory focus, complementarity, and relationship well-being. <i>Social Cognition</i>, 31, 1-14.</p> <p><u>Suggested:</u> Rusbult et al. (2009). The Michelangelo phenomenon. <i>Current Directions in Psychological Science</i>, 18, 305-309.</p>
11	Tues Aug 2 nd	The dating 'game': From flirting to friends with benefits	<p><u>Required:</u> Joel, S., Teper, R., & MacDonald, G. (2014). People Overestimate Their Willingness to Reject Potential Romantic Partners by Overlooking Their Concern for Other People. <i>Psychological science</i>, 0956797614552828.</p> <p><u>Suggested:</u> Wentland, J. J., & Reissing, E. D. (2011). Taking casual sex not too casually: Exploring definitions of casual sexual relationships. <i>The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality</i>, 20, 75-91.</p>
12	Thurs Aug 4 th	<p>TERM TEST 2</p> <p>Location: Exam Centre room 300</p>	