

PSYC 466-DL1 | Psychology of Intimate Relationships | Spring 2024

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Course Information:

Instructor Name: Janelle Applewhite, M.Ed.

Email: japplewh@gmu.edu

Class Time: asynchronous (Online)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:00pm, (email first for an appointment via in person/zoom)

Course Overview:

This course aims to cover foundational concepts of the Psychology of Relationships. Students will be asked to critically reflect and apply the concepts to their personal and social world.

Course Goals and Mason Core Goals:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Critically reflect on the composition and dynamics of relationships
- Identify psychological mechanism in intimate relationships
- Communicate and explain basic psychological principles about relationship dynamics in everyday language, drawing from everyday examples.
- Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors
- Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs
- Use appropriate methods and resources to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles, and theories in the analysis of significant human issues, past or present

Communication:

Official Communication will be done via GMU E-mail and blackboard. Please check them regularly. When emailing, **please include “PSYC 466” in the subject line**, I will respond within **24- 48 hours** to emails. Emails sent after 5pm on Fridays will receive a response by Monday /Tuesday. If you have any questions about the course, please feel free to ask your questions in the discussion forum labelled “Course Questions”.

Required Text:

A free pdf of this textbook will be available to you on Blackboard:

Bradbury, Thomas & Karney, Benjamin. (2019). Intimate Relationships, Third Edition. New York City, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

Disability Accommodations:

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, hearing, learning, or medical conditions) or any religious or cultural practices, please **let me know by the second week of class** so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. We can work together to ensure the course meets your needs. Disabilities must be documented by the Disability Resources Center (703-993-2474) for reasonable accommodations to be provided. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester.

Diversity and Inclusion:

The Psychology Department values and respects individuals of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, and socioeconomic classes. We recognize that each of us holds a number of intersecting identities that both bring a richness of lived experience and convey vastly differing levels of privilege. We fully acknowledge that our society – and in many cases, our discipline – have contributed to these differing levels of privilege.

Student Support and Wellness:

It is important to me that you feel able to show up fully in our work together. I am human first, as are you – and we work best when we feel whole, healthy, and secure: a roof over our head, a safe place to sleep, a stable place to live, and enough food to eat. If you are struggling to meet any of these basic needs please visit our campus food pantry or other Mason resources. Asking for assistance and advocating for yourself is a sign of strength, and an important part of your collegiate experience.

The University provides a range of services to help you succeed academically and you should make use of these if you think they could benefit you. I also invite you to speak to me (the earlier the better).

If you are experiencing feelings of anxiety, panic, depression, sadness during the semester, Student Health Services (703) 993-2831) and [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance. Counseling Center: Student Union I, Room 364, 703-993-2380.

If you or someone you know experiences a mental health crisis, see help immediately. Call 911, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) or text the Crisis Text Line (741-741). I am also available to speak with you about stresses related to your work in my course.

Technology Requirements

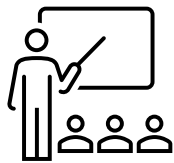
Hardware: You will need access to a Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and access to a fast and reliable broadband internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. Consider and allow for storage needed for files and software needed for your classes.

If you consider the purchase of a new computer, please go to [Patriot Tech](#) to see recommendations. Hardware or software required for your course or program may be available for purchase at [Patriot Computers](#) (the University's computer store that offers educational discounts and special deals).

Software: This course uses Blackboard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the [my Mason Portal](#). See [supported browsers and operating systems](#). Log in to [my Mason](#) to access your registered courses. Also, make sure your computer is protected from viruses by downloading the latest version of Symantec Endpoint Protection/Anti-Virus software for free [here](#).

Privacy

Students must use their Mason email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. I will not respond to messages sent from or send messages to a non-Mason email address.

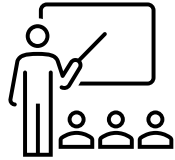


Academic Integrity:

Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

Student Use of Electronic Devices

The use of laptop computers is required in this class. Please be respectful of your peers and your instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to the class.



Grading:

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|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| A+ 97% and above | A 93-96% | A-90-92% | B+ 87-89% |
| B 83-86% | B- 80-82% | C+ 77-79% | C 73-76% |
| C- 70-72 % | D 60-69% | F 59% and below | |

Grades will be rounded up from 0.5%. For example, an 89.5% would become an A-, however, an 89.49 would become a B+

Assignments/Learning Activities

Weekly Quizzes (500 points)- We will have weekly quizzes covering the chapter and lecture material. Quizzes will open Monday morning and be due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, covering the chapter from the previous week. Quizzes will be multiple choice only and open book. All quizzes should be turned in online via Blackboard.

Weekly Discussion post (100 points)- Each week by Sunday at 11:59pm you must post in the discussion forum for that week with:

- 1) One question you have about the content from that week.
- 2) A response to one other person's question with:
 - a. A question that builds off theirs or
 - b. An answer to their question

You must do this for every chapter that is covered. Each post and reply comment will be worth 5 points each. You will start the semester with 100 points and lose points for missed posts and replies.

Reflection paper (100 points)- You will be asked to write two short papers over the course of the semester, one for midterm and one right before the final worth 50 points each. Each paper should be 3-5 pages long, size 12 Times New Roman font and double spaced with 1" margins. Use APA formatting for these papers. You will choose two or more of the topics we have discussed so far in the course and relate to experiences from your own life or to that of someone you know. Explain the story and then how you understand the events now with your knowledge

of psychology and course topics. There should be equal amounts of psychology information as there is story.

Final Exam (300 points) - The final exam is cumulative and will be an online, open book cumulative exam covering everything we went over throughout the semester. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions only.

Late Policy:

I will provide extensions on assignments once I am informed more than 24 hours before the deadline or on a case-by-case basis. If an emergency arises, please still email me and explain the situation (within your comfort level) and I may be able to allow an exception. If I have not given you explicit permission to turn in your work late, late work will not be accepted.

Course Schedule

| Date | Topic | Assignment Due (by 11:59PM) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sun, Jan 21 st | Chapter 1, Lecture 1 | Discussion Posts |
| Tue, Jan 23 rd | Chapter 1, Lecture 1 | Chapter 1 Quiz |
| Sun, Jan 28 th | Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Lecture 1 | Discussion Posts |
| Tue, Jan 30 th | Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Lecture 1 | Chapter 2/3 Quiz |
| Sun, Feb 4 th | Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Lecture 2 | Discussion Posts |
| Tue, Feb 6 th | Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Lecture 2 | Chapter 4/5 Quiz |
| Sun, Feb 11 th | Chapter 6, Lecture 3 | Discussion Posts |
| Tue, Feb 13 th | Chapter 6, Lecture 3 | Chapter 6 Quiz |
| Sun, Feb 18 th | Chapter 7, Chapter 8, Lecture 3 | Discussion Posts |
| Tue, Feb 20 th | Chapter 7, Chapter 8, Lecture 3 | Chapter 7/8 Quiz |
| Sun, Feb 25 th | Reflection Paperwork Week | |
| Tue, Feb 27 th | Reflection Paperwork Week | |
| Sun, March 3 rd | Reflection Paper DUE | Reflection Paper 1 Due |
| Mon-Sun, March 4-10 th | Spring Break Recess | |

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| Sun, March 10th | Chapter 9, Lecture 4 | Discussion Posts |
| Tue, March 12th | Chapter 9, Lecture 4 | Chapter 9 Quiz |
| Sun, March 17th | Chapter 10, Chapter 11, Lecture 5 | Discussion Posts |
| Tue, March 19th | Chapter 10, Chapter 11, Lecture 5 | Chapter 10/11 Quiz |
| Sun, March 24th | Chapter 12, Chapter 13, Lecture 6 | Discussion Posts |
| Tue, March 26th | Chapter 12, Chapter 13, Lecture 6 | Chapter 12/13 Quiz |
| Sun, April 7th | Chapter 14, Lecture 6 | Discussion Posts |
| Tue, April 9th | Chapter 14, Lecture 6 | Chapter 14 Quiz |
| Sun, April 14th | Chapter 15, Lecture 6 | Discussion Posts |
| Tues, April 16th | Chapter 15, Lecture 6 | Chapter 15 Quiz |
| Sun, April 21st | Reflection Paperwork Week | |
| Tues, April 23rd | Reflection Paperwork Week | |
| Fri, April 26th | Reflection Paper DUE | Reflection Paper 2 Due |
| Sun, April 28th | Final Exam Opens 5PM | |
| Monday, May 6th | Final Exam DUE | Final Exam Due by 5PM |

****The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus/schedule throughout the semester when needed.***

Important Dates (Spring 2024):

Semester dates: begin 1/16, end 5/8
 Last day to add courses: 1/23
 Last day to drop with 100% refund: 1/30
 Final day to drop (50% refund): 2/6
 Unrestricted Withdraw Period: 2/7-2/20
 Selective Withdraw Period: 2/21- 3/25