

# Psych 466-DL1: Psychology of Intimate Relationships

Fall 2023

Online & Asynchronous

## Instructor Information

Instructor Erika De Los Santos (she/her/hers)

[edeloss@gmu.edu](mailto:edeloss@gmu.edu)

David King Hall Room 1014C (basement of David King in the Centec Room)

## Virtual Office Hours

Monday & Friday 11am-12pm (or by appointment)

<https://gmu.zoom.us/j/2416510323>

## Course Goals and Mason Core Goals

1. Critically reflect on the composition and dynamics of relationships
2. Identify psychological mechanism in intimate relationships
3. Communicate and explain basic psychological principles about relationship dynamics in everyday language, drawing from everyday examples
4. Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors
5. Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs
6. 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

## 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.

## Grading

The lecture grade will consist of the following weighted components:

1 final exam	300 points
10 quizzes	500 points (50 points each)
Slack Discussion Posts	100 points
Reflection Papers	100 points

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**Total:**

**1,000 points**

## Slack Discussion Posts

(Slack invitation is in Blackboard under both "Course Content & Link" and "Slack Link")

Each week by Sunday at 11:59pm you must post in the appropriate slack channel 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 of theirs or
  - b. An answer to their question

You must do this for every chapter that is covered. Each post or reply comment will be worth 4 points each (8 points per week). You will start the semester with 100 points, and lose points for missed posts and replies.

## Quizzes

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. Quizzes will be worth 50 points each for a total of 500 points.

## Exams

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. The final exam will be worth 300 points.

## Reflection Papers

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.

## Late Policy

I will provide extensions on assignments on a case-by-case basis. In order to receive an extension, students must reach out at least 24 hours before the deadline. 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.

### Honor code

All students are expected to be familiar with, and abide by, the University Honor Code. As required by the Honor Code, all suspected violations will be reported.

### Communication Policy

If you have any questions about the course, please feel free to ask your questions in the Discussion Forum labeled “Course Questions”. If you would prefer to email me, please ensure you include “PSYCH 466” in the subject line, as I am teaching multiple courses. Additionally, relationships are all about \*boundaries\* so please allow me at least 24 hours to respond if you email me outside of Monday-Friday from 8am-6pm.

### Grading Scale

Lecture Quizzes (10 x 3% = 30%) + Exams (3 x 20% = 60) + Attendance (10%)

A+ 97% or 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% & 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+

### Important dates

Last day to add a class: **August 28<sup>th</sup>**

Last day to drop a class with 100% refund: **September 5<sup>th</sup>**

Last day to drop a class: **September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Withdrawal period: **September 13<sup>th</sup> – September 26<sup>th</sup>**

### Disability Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me early in the semester. If you have not already done so, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Please keep in mind that it might not be possible to grant last-minute requests for accommodations, so it is important to make all arrangements well before the date when the accommodation is needed.

### Diversity

It is important to have an inclusive learning experience. As with the Mason Diversity Statement, “diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation,” and economic status. Being thoughtful and respectful of people’s opinions and backgrounds will help stimulate your environment and learning experience

## Notice of a mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee”, and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling & Psychology Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing [cde@gmu.edu](mailto:cde@gmu.edu).

## Mental Health Resources

### CAPS:

Individual and group counseling, crises support, virtual mental health workshops, etc.  
<https://caps.gmu.edu>  
(703) 993-2380

### Student Support and Advocacy Center:

Patriot pantry, financial well-being, substance abuse, & domestic violence  
<https://ssac.gmu.edu>  
(703) 993-3686

**\*\*\*Instructor reserves the right to change any items on this syllabus at any time\*\*\***