

PSY 365
Close Relationships

3 Hours of Academic Credit

Fall, 2008

AB4 302 Mondays, 6 - 8:50

Professor: Rowland Miller

Office: AB4 329

Phone: 294-1176

E-mail: miller@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Monday, 1- 5:00; T/Th, 12:30 - 2:00

Other days and times by appointment

TEXT: Miller, R. S., Perlman, D., & Brehm, S. S. (2007). *Intimate relationships* (4th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill. (ISBN: 978-0-07-293801-2)

The course is an introduction to relationship science. It examines the processes of interdependent intimacy using psychological theory and research, focusing on the topics outlined below.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Exam</u>
Building Blocks	C1	
Friendship	(pp. 219-226; 235-240)	
Relationship Research	C2	1 (Sept 22)
Attraction	C3	
Social Cognition	C4	
Communication (part 1)	(pp. 147-170)	2 (Oct 20)
Interdependency	C6	
Love	C8	
Sex	C9	3 (Nov 17)
Stresses and Strains	C10	
Conflict & Communication (part 2)	(pp. 361-377; 171-178)	
Loss	(pp. 395-412)	
Shyness	(pp. 428-432)	
Living happily ever after	C15	4 (Dec 15)

CLASS POLICIES:

Grades will be based on your total number of points from four exams, each worth 100 points. The exams will be composed of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer essay questions. Please bring a Scan-Tron Form 886-E, a "Mini-Essay book" to each exam. The exam schedule listed overleaf is tentative; it may change as the semester progresses. The last exam will not be comprehensive. Course grades will be assigned as an approximate function of the top scores in the class according to the following scale: 90-100%, A; 80-89%, B; 70-79%, C; 60-69%, D.

Class attendance is not required, and no penalty will be levied if you do not come to class. Each class covers a week of material, however, and every class will contain exam material that does not appear in the text, so you should expect adverse outcomes if you are not sufficiently familiar with our classroom proceedings. We will not encounter any opportunities for "extra credit" in the course.

I will be glad to work with you to arrange an alternative test time if you must miss an exam (except for the final) as long as you *arrange such an appointment with me before the day of the exam*. Under any other circumstances--including a phone message that you won't be at an exam--you'll be provided a make-up exam on Monday, December 8, in our classroom, at 4:45. You may take only one makeup exam. You will also have only one opportunity to take our last exam, on Monday, December 15, at 6:00.

The Small Print:

SHSU proudly adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. Your disclosure of any disability will be kept strictly confidential, of course; however, no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

The University Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, states that you are expected "to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity both in and out" of the classroom. Disciplinary action that will involve failure of, and expulsion from, our course will be initiated against any student accused of any form of academic dishonesty.

If you miss an exam in order to observe a religious holy day, I will happily provide you the exam on the following Monday at 4:45. However, University policy requires you to notify me in writing of your wish to be absent due to religious holy days. Please plan ahead, and, for more info on this and the other policies mentioned above, feel free to check out our official University guidelines at www.shsu.edu/syllabus.

Visitors will ordinarily be welcome in our class as long as they are well-behaved, but please check with me before you bring visitors to class. I get to be the judge of who's well-behaved and who's not, and anyone (including you) who does not, in my judgment, display sufficient decorum and respect for others will be asked to leave the room.

You'll be asked to provide a formal evaluation of me and my course near the end of the semester.

*** I reserve the right to answer any phone that rings in this room. ***

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Students will become more discerning consumers of information regarding relationships.
- 2) Students will become more familiar with the major areas of inquiry in relationship science.
- 3) Students will develop more realistic perceptions of, and expectations regarding, relationship processes.