

**Relationship Science
2020-2021 Spring Semester**

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| Course Code: | PSY 343 |
| Instructor: | Asuman Buyukcan Tetik (asuman.buyukcan@sabanciuniv.edu) |
| Credits: | 3 |
| Office hours: | Please email me to make an appointment. |
| TA: | Turan Deniz Ergun (tergun@sabanciuniv.edu) |
| Zoom Link | https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/2039685217 (no password) |

1. Brief Introduction

What is the meaning of a close relationship? What predicts a satisfying relationship? What are the factors that have an influence on relationship maintenance? Why do people have conflicts and engage in violent behaviors in their close relationships?

This course aims to answer such questions based on the scientific findings. We will rely on the theories and studies in the fields of psychology, communication science, and family studies. We will focus on the topics including, but not limited to, attachment, attraction, love, passion, trust, family violence, and relationship dissolution.

2. Course Hours and Structure

This course will be composed of both synchronous and asynchronous parts.

Asynchronous sessions: The instructor will upload the video presentation of that week to the Course Website.

Synchronous sessions: We will meet online to discuss about the topics of that week and have a mini-exam (see below).

3. Recommended Textbook

Please be aware that having the textbook is **not obligatory or expected** but recommended.

Title of the textbook: The Science of Intimate Relationships

Authors: Garth Fletcher, Jeffrey A. Simpson, Lorne Campbell, and Nickola C. Overall

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/The+Science+of+Intimate+Relationships%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9781119430094>

<https://www.homerbooks.com/urun/science-of-intimate-relationships>

Although I will benefit from this textbook in this course, I will cover more resources in the class (see the timetable below).

4. Assessment

The summary of grading is as follows:

| Type of assessment | % of total grade |
|--|------------------|
| 4 Online Mini-Exams | 55% |
| Poster Homework about a Relationship Science Theory (Group Work) | 30% |
| Reaction papers after the Guest Speakers' Presentations | 15% |
| Total | 100% |

- **Mini-Exams**

Mini-exams will include a mixture of different types of questions (e.g., essay, fill-in, free-response, open-ended questions, and/or multiple-choice questions). Questions in the mini-exams are based on everything (i.e., slides, discussions, videos etc.) covered in lectures and all the reading materials (e.g., assigned articles).

See the timeline below for the dates of the mini-exams. **The lowest grade of the 4 will be deducted when your final grade is computed.**

If the number of mini-exams you took is less than 4 at the end of the semester, you will get zeros as many as the number of missed min-exams (e.g., if you attended only 1 mini-exams, you will get three zeros).

- **Poster Homework**

Poster homework will be a group work. Each group will be composed of 3 individuals. You are free to create your own group. If you prefer to work alone, it is acceptable as long as you let us know when the groups are assigned. However, I may change the members of your group and/or assign additional members to your group.

Each group will be assigned one of the relationship science theories listed below:

- Interpersonal Process Model of Intimacy
- Relational Turbulence Theory
- Vulnerability Stress Adaptation Model
- Sexual Strategies Theory
- Relational Dialectics Theory
- Error Management Theory
- Empathic Accuracy Model
- I³ about Intimate Partner Violence
- Family Stress Model
- Implicit Theories of Relationships
- Privacy Management Theory
- Cascade Model of Relational Dissolution

Assignments of the theories to groups will be made randomly during the class time after all groups and their members are decided. You will be notified about the expectations and detailed instructions during the semester.

- **Reaction Paper after the Guest Speakers' Presentations**

- You are expected to write a reaction paper based on **ONE** of the two presentations.
- You do not need to write two papers. However, you can if you want to. If you submit papers after both presentations, the one with the higher grade will be considered in your final grade calculation.

Attendance will be taken during the presentations. If you did not attend, please do not bother to submit a paper, because it will not be graded.

If you missed one of the two presentations, you are allowed to attend the other one and write a reaction paper. If you missed both of the presentations, then there will not be any make-ups.

I'm going to send you the guidelines for reaction papers during the semester.

- **Bonus points**

There will be a bonus of 5% of the poster presentation grade. This is a 5% bonus, not +5 bonus points. For example, if your poster grade is 80, the bonus points you will get for your final grade computation will be $80 * 5\% = 4$ points.

- **Research points (Extra credits)**

Students can optionally serve as participants in research that is run by Sabanci University researchers. By participating in research, you can get research points. For this course, you will be able to earn up to 6 research points (1 credit equals ~ 29 minutes of research participation). These 6 RP points will be converted to 3 points added to your overall total at the end of the semester. More information on the available research projects will be provided during the semester.

You will be able to sign up for the experiments and get your research points through the online Sona system at <http://sabanciuniv.sona-systems.com>.

Please, carefully read the Guide for Students: Sabanci University Experiment Credits System (Sona), which will be uploaded to the Course Website.

5. Grading

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|-------|----|
| >=90 | A |
| 85-89 | A- |
| 80-84 | B+ |
| 75-79 | B |
| 70-74 | B- |
| 65-69 | C+ |
| 60-64 | C |
| 55-59 | C- |
| 50-54 | D+ |
| 45-49 | D |
| 0-44 | F |

6. Timetable

| Week # | Course Date | Content |
|--------|-------------|---|
| 1 | 25 February | Syllabus + Finkel, Simpson, & Eastwick (2017) |
| 2 | 4 March | Attachment (Chapter 5) + Simpson & Overall (2014) |
| 3 | 11 March | Attraction and Mate Selection (Chapter 6) + Haselton & Gildersleeve (2016) |
| 4 | 18 March | Love (Chapter 7) MINI-EXAM 1 (content: week 1-week 3) |
| 5 | 25 March | Reading Minds, Partners, and Relationships (Chapter 8) + McNulty, Olson, Meltzer, & Shaffer (2013) |
| 6 | 1 April | Trauma & Relationship Violence (Chapter 11) |
| 7 | 8 April | Communication and Interactions (Chapter 9) MINI-EXAM 2 (content: week 4-week 5) |
| 8 | 15 April | Sex and Passion (Chapter 10) + Muise, Schimmack, & Impett (2016) Guest-Speaker 1: Gizem Erdem (Koç University) |
| 9 | 22 April | Kurdek (2005) + Parra et al. (2018) + Balzarini, Dharma, Muise, & Kohut (2019) MINI-EXAM 3 (content: week 6 - week 7) |
| 10 | 29 April | Posters + Discussions about Theories in the Posters |
| 11 | 6 May | Posters + Discussions about Theories in the Posters Guest-Speaker 2: Ezgi Toplu Demirtaş (MEF University) |
| 12 | 13 May | NO CLASS Ramadan break |
| 13 | 20 May | Relationship Dissolution (Chapter 12) + Johnson & Neyer (2019) |
| 14 | 27 May | Recap |

MINI-EXAM 4 during the final exams period (content: weeks 8,9,13)

Article List

- Balzarini, R. N., Dharma, C., Muise, A., & Kohut, T. (2019). Eroticism versus nurturance: How eroticism and nurturance differ in polyamorous and monogamous relationships. *Social Psychology, 50*, 185.
- Finkel, E. J., Simpson, J. A., & Eastwick, P. W. (2017). The psychology of close relationships: Fourteen core principles. *Annual Review of Psychology, 68*, 383-411.
- Haselton, M. G., & Gildersleeve, K. (2016). Human ovulation cues. *Current Opinion in Psychology, 7*, 120-125.
- Johnson, M. D., & Neyer, F. J. (2019). (Eventual) stability and change across partnerships. *Journal of Family Psychology, 33*, 711-721.
- Kurdek, L. A. (2005). What do we know about gay and lesbian couples? *Current directions in psychological science, 14*, 251-254.
- McNulty, J. K., Olson, M. A., Meltzer, A. L., & Shaffer, M. J. (2013). Though they may be unaware, newlyweds implicitly know whether their marriage will be satisfying. *Science, 342*(6162), 1119-1120.
- Muise, A., Schimmack, U., & Impett, E. A. (2016). Sexual frequency predicts greater well-being, but more is not always better. *Social Psychological and Personality Science, 7*, 295-302.

- Parra, L. A., Bell, T. S., Benibgui, M., Helm, J. L., & Hastings, P. D. (2018). The buffering effect of peer support on the links between family rejection and psychosocial adjustment in LGB emerging adults. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 35*, 854-871.
- Simpson, J. A., & Overall, N. C. (2014). Partner buffering of attachment insecurity. *Current directions in psychological science, 23*, 54-59.

Other announcements

- I may slightly change this syllabus throughout the semester. I will let you know in case I make any changes.
- You are expected to watch the video presentation and read the power point slides before the class time.
- Please do not forget that as a university policy, all University members have to behave according to the academic principles mentioned here: <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement>. Please read all those principles.
- Plagiarism from either external resources or your classmates' work, or any type of fraud (e.g., cheating, copying) will not be tolerated. Students who engaged in these types of behaviors will fail in this course and be a subject of a discipline inquiry.
- Any type of work that will be graded (posters, response/reaction papers, mini-exams, online quiz etc.) have an exam status and any kind of "intihal" (plagiarism) in the graded work will be categorized as cheating.
- Make-ups can be allowed only in case of an emergency (e.g., medical emergency). The student should email me as soon as possible in this type of situations.
- Students who fail to show up for the mini-exams indicated in the Syllabus without a valid excuse and not taking the make-up examinations for such exams will receive N/A as their final grade.
- **Your webcam must always be on during online quizzes, mini-exams and exams - if not, your quizzes, mini-exams, and exams will be void. You must connect to the Zoom link for the course with your official Sabancı University e-mail account, and not utilize other email accounts.**