

**Relationship Science
2021-2022 Spring Semester**

Course Code:	PSY 343
Instructor:	Asuman Buyukcan Tetik (asuman.buyukcan@sabanciuniv.edu)
Credits:	3
Office hours:	Please email me to make an appointment.
TAs	Yarkin Guryol (yarkin.guryol@sabanciuniv.edu) Kerem Besim Durbin (besim.durbin@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 influence relationship maintenance? Why do people have conflicts and engage in violent behaviors in intimate relationships?

This course aims to answer such questions based on scientific findings. We will rely on the theories and studies in the fields of psychology, communication science, family research, and human development. We will focus on 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 one online (Thursdays 10:40-11:30) and two hybrid (14:40-16:30, FASS G025) course hours.

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, Jeffry 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
Presentation about a Relationship Science Theory (Group Work)	30%
Reaction paper about a movie	15%
Online Discussion Hours about selected articles (see the timeline)	25%
Take-home final exam	30%
Total	100%

- **Presentation**

Presentation homework will be group work. Each group will be composed of 3 individuals. You are free to select your group members. If you prefer to work alone, it is acceptable as long as you let us know before the groups are decided. 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 class time after all groups and their members are decided. Detailed instructions will be provided during the semester.

- **Reaction Paper**

You will be expected to select a movie from the list we will provide and write a reaction paper about that movie by referring to the course materials (e.g., relationship theories, scientific concepts, articles, previous findings). Guidelines will be provided during the semester.

- **Online Discussion Hours**

We will devote some of our online class hours to discussions about assigned articles. You are expected to read the article before class time. Your participation during those discussions will be graded on a scale from 0 to 2.

- **Take-home final exam**

The take-home final exam will cover all chapters throughout the semester, but it will rely on critical thinking and discussion of the course materials. Thus, extensive knowledge of the course materials is a must for success in this exam. The University Administration will announce the take-home final exam date.

- **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. Timetable

Week #	The week starting with	Content
1	28 February	<u>Thursday and Friday:</u> Syllabus + Finkel, Simpson, & Eastwick (2017)
2	7 March	<u>Thursday and Friday:</u> Attachment (Chapter 5) + Simpson & Overall (2014)
3	14 March	<u>Discussion Hour (Thursday):</u> Haselton & Gildersleeve (2016) <u>Friday:</u> Attraction and Mate Selection (Chapter 6)
4	21 March	<u>Thursday and Friday:</u> Love (Chapter 7)
5	28 March	<u>Discussion Hour (Thursday):</u> McNulty, Olson, Meltzer, & Shaffer (2013) <u>Friday:</u> Reading Minds, Partners, and Relationships (Chapter 8)
6	4 April	<u>Thursday and Friday:</u> Trauma & Relationship Violence (Chapter 11)
7	11 April	<u>Thursday and Friday:</u> Communication and Interactions (Chapter 9)
8	18 April	<u>Discussion Hour (Thursday):</u> Muise, Schimmack, & Impett (2016) <u>Friday:</u> Sexual intimacy and Passion (Chapter 10)
9	25 April	<u>Chapters continued</u>
10	2 May	SEMESTER BREAK
11	9 May	<u>Thursday:</u> Chapters continued <u>Friday:</u> Presentations
12	16 May	NO CLASS (19-20 May)
13	23 May	<u>Thursday:</u> Chapters continued <u>Friday:</u> Presentations
14	30 May	Reaction paper due date: 3 June 2022 <u>Thursday and Friday:</u> Kurdek (2005) + Parra et al. (2018) + Balzarini, Dharma, Muise, & Kohut (2019)
15	6 June	<u>Discussion Hour (Thursday):</u> Johnson & Neyer (2019) <u>Friday:</u> Relationship Dissolution (Chapter 12)

The University Administration will announce the take-home final exam date.

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.

6. Grading

>=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

7. Other announcements

- I may slightly change this syllabus throughout the semester. I will let you know in case I make any changes.
- 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 disciplinary inquiry.
- Any type of work that will be graded (presentations, response/reaction papers, mini-exams, online quiz etc.) has 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 situation.
- **Your webcam must always be on during online assessments (e.g., discussion hours, presentations, quizzes, mini-exams and exams), if not, your assessments will be void. You must connect to the Zoom link for the course with your official Sabancı University email account, and not utilize other email accounts.**