SYLLABUS

Psychology 592-A Section C – The Psychology of Close Relationships
Fall, 2007

Instructor: Prof. Carolyn Cutrona
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Office Hours: At ISBR 1:00 – 3:00 Mondays; 2:00 to 4:00 on Thursdays (Call or email ahead, please)
At Lago by appointment

Class time and location: Tues, Thurs 3:40 – 5:00 in Kildee 107

Class Website: http://www.psychology.iastate.edu/faculty/ccutrona/psych592a
(User id: Psych592a; Password: cutrona)

Course Objectives: To acquaint students with selected theories, basic research, and applied research in the area of close relationships and to increase students’ skill and comfort in oral expression, critical analysis, and written communication though assignments and class discussions. Students will read both classic and recent journal articles and chapters on a wide range of topics in the field of close relationships.

Requirements:

1. Class Participation: Students are expected to attend every class session and to come prepared to discuss the reading assignments for that session. An important part of the learning experience (and the most fun) will be participation in class discussions. Once during the semester, each student will assist with leading the class discussion. The “student of the day” will be expected to participate even more actively than usual in the discussion, posing questions to the class and raising interesting issues for discussion, along with the instructor.

To highlight the importance of honing your verbal skills, part of your grade will be determined by the enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, and frequency (less important than thoughtfulness!) of your contributions to class discussion. (15% of grade)

2. Class Presentation: Each student will be responsible for half of one class period, in which he or she will present an overview of current theory and research on a topic of relevance to the course. You will be the instructor and your goal is to teach the class about your topic in a manner that is interesting, clear, and informative. PowerPoint is fine, but not required. The presentation will be on the same topic as the term paper, described below. One week before the presentation, the presenter will email the instructor one relevant reading. The instructor will put the reading on the class website. These readings will be part of the assigned readings for the entire class. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Student presentations will begin on November 8th and continue through December 6th. (40% of grade)
3. Term Paper: Each student will write a literature review on a topic relevant to the course (10-15 pages, typed, double-spaced, APA style). The paper will be on the same topic as your class presentation, but will go into greater depth than the presentation. Topics must be approved by the instructor. The paper will be due the MONDAY AFTER the last day of class (December 10). (45% of grade)

There will be no exams in this class.

ASSIGNED READINGS
Psych 592-A, Fall, 2007

August 21 and 23 – Instructor is out of town; No class.

THEORIES OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

August 28 – CLASSIC THEORIES


MENTAL HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS

August 30 – DSM-V and Relationship Problems


CURRENT TRENDS IN RELATIONSHIPS

September 4 – COHABITATION


September 6 - ISBR Showcase; No Class

September 11 –
MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE – PROBLEM OR NOT?


September 13 – SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILIES


September 18 – GLBT Panel


QUALITY IN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

September 20 – NEW TRENDS IN THE STUDY OF MARRIAGE


September 25 – ACCOMMODATION


September 27 – FORGIVENESS


October 2 – FORGIVENESS INTERVENTIONS


October 4 – RELIGIOSITY AND MARRIAGE


October 9 – SOCIAL SUPPORT


October 11 – COGNITIVE FACTORS IN MARITAL QUALITY


October 16 – OTHER PREDICTORS OF MARITAL QUALITY


PROBLEMS IN RELATIONSHIPS

October 18: DEMAND-WITHDRAW PATTERNS IN COMMUNICATION


**October 23 – CONFLICT PATTERNS**


**October 25–INFIDELITY**


**October 30- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**


**November 1 – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**


**RELATIONSHIP INTERVENTIONS**

**November 6 – Preventing relationship problems**


**November 8 – Preventing relationship problems**


November 13 – Student Presentations

November 15 – Student Presentations

November 20 and 22 – Thanksgiving Break

November 27 – Student Presentations

November 29 – Student Presentations

December 4 – Student Presentations

December 6 – Student Presentations

DECEMBER 10 – TERM PAPERS DUE