



PSY 350

The Psychology of Human Relationships

S3 Day 2015

Department of Psychology

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	5
<u>Graduate Capabilities</u>	7
<u>Changes since First Published</u>	12

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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C3A520

by appointment

Bree Gregory

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

39cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Human beings are fundamentally social creatures who depend on one another for their survival and well-being, both physical and psychological. Everyone is born with powerful needs for love, friendship and belonging; similarly, we fear and avoid rejection, loneliness and the disapproval of others. Despite the central role they play in our lives, however, developing and maintaining happy and healthy relationships with family members, spouses, friends and even workmates is not easy, and professional psychologists spend the bulk of their time dealing with clients' relationship problems. This unit examines a variety of relationship topics from a social psychological perspective including attraction, love- and mate selection; kinship, friendship and enemyship; jealousy, betrayal and forgiveness; communication, conflict and aggression; and the processes involved in relationship breakdown and repair. Throughout, there is a strong emphasis on critically examining so-called 'pop' psychological approaches to relationships, and students are encouraged to examine the complexities of relationship structures and processes from different cultural perspectives.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in the field of human relationships
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of research methods used in relationship research
- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues
- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Exam	40%	Examination period
Oral presentation	10%	Week 3 tutorials
Paper review	20%	18th December 2015
Essay	30%	8th January 2016

Exam

Due: **Examination period**

Weighting: **40%**

80-item multiple choice exam.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in the field of human relationships
- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues

Oral presentation

Due: **Week 3 tutorials**

Weighting: **10%**

Oral presentation based on Research Paper Review

Length: 5 minutes

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in the field of human relationships
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of research methods used in relationship research
- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues
- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Paper review

Due: **18th December 2015**

Weighting: **20%**

Review of one journal article

Length: 700 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in the field of human relationships
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of research methods used in relationship research
- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Essay

Due: **8th January 2016**

Weighting: **30%**

1200 word essay.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in the field of human relationships
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of research methods used in relationship research
- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues
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Delivery and Resources

lecture slides and Echo recordings are available on iLearn.

Unit Schedule

Lectures 4 or 5 hours of pre-recorded lectures per week (over 5 weeks)

Note: Lecture recordings, slides and readings are only accessible via the iLearn page for PSY350 students.

Tutorials	Number of tutorials:	Five tutorials, one per week
	Length of tutorials:	2 hours
	Tutorial Attendance:	COMPULSORY

Students will be required to listen to pre-recorded lectures online and attend **all five tutorials**. Tutorials begin in **Week 1** and are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays in E5A150. **Tutorial attendance is a compulsory unit requirement.** Please note that attendance at tutorials will be recorded and may also be taken into account when making final decisions regarding your overall grade for this unit.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit <ask.mq.edu.au>.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at <ask.mq.edu.au>

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues
- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Assessment tasks

- Exam
- Oral presentation
- Paper review
- Essay

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues
- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Assessment tasks

- Exam
- Oral presentation
- Paper review
- Essay

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues
- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Assessment tasks

- Exam
- Oral presentation
- Paper review
- Essay

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in the field of human relationships
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of research methods used in relationship research
- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues

- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Assessment tasks

- Exam
- Oral presentation
- Paper review
- Essay

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in the field of human relationships
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of research methods used in relationship research
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Assessment tasks

- Exam
- Oral presentation
- Paper review
- Essay

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative

in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in the field of human relationships
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of research methods used in relationship research
- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues
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Assessment tasks

- Exam
- Oral presentation
- Paper review
- Essay

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Assessment tasks

- Oral presentation
- Paper review
- Essay

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's

historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues
- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Assessment tasks

- Exam
- Oral presentation
- Paper review
- Essay

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- explain contemporary issues in the psychology of human relationships literature and the theories from which they are derived
- apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues
- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

Assessment tasks

- Exam
- Oral presentation
- Paper review
- Essay

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
24/11/2015	Amendment to assessment due date
24/11/2015	Amendment of assessment deadlines.