



SOC 315

Love, Sex and Friendship

S1 Day 2017

Dept of Sociology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

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Tutor

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

39cp at 100 level or above including (3cp from SOC or SSC or SSCI or GEN units at 200 level)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this unit we look at intimacy in its various forms, and its importance as a basis of interaction for personal relationships, family and friendship. When we think about intimacy we tend to imagine it primarily in terms of feelings: understanding and feeling understood; loving and feeling loved; supporting and feeling supported; feeling able to be yourself, to let go, to enjoy someone's company, closeness, comfort. This unit, then, is also an invitation to think outside these psychological categories and to exercise your sociological imagination. We focus on the contested nature of sociology's contemporary interest in the intimate sphere. We turn to history to enable considered reflection upon present-day experiences. For contemporary love relationships, friendships and the ways in which family members interact, are subject to material and ideological changes that have their source in the beginnings of modernity.

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:

An understanding of key concepts, issues and contemporary debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.

The ability to sociologically discuss love, sex, and friendship with peers.

The ability to sociologically analyse historical and contemporary practices of intimacy, with particular attention to concepts of love, romance, sex, sexuality, and friendship.

An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.

Demonstration of advanced research skills through an ability to source and analyse key arguments and debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.

The ability to conduct independent research that demonstrates original thought.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation	10%	No	Ongoing
Essay 1: Critical Review	20%	No	Week 4 (24 March)
Essay 2: Literature Review	30%	No	Week 8 (5 May)
Essay 3: Major Essay	40%	No	Week 13 (9 June)

Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

Attend and actively participate in tutorials.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- An understanding of key concepts, issues and contemporary debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to sociologically discuss love, sex, and friendship with peers.
- An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.

Essay 1: Critical Review

Due: **Week 4 (24 March)**

Weighting: **20%**

Choose one TEDx video clip posted in the Assessment section on your SOC315 iLearn page.

Reflect on what the presenter has to say about intimacy.

Critically engage with the presentation by using what you've learned in the unit about intimacy so far, drawing upon lecture and reading materials.

Minimum references: 3 (your chosen clip and course readings). You may draw upon other references too, if necessary.

To reference the video write, for example: Timmerman, T. 2016, 'Virtual Intimacy'. To reference in-text write, for example: (Timmermans 2016, 11:06). (referring to the time a statement begins).

Word count: 700 (including references)

Submit assignment through turnitin.

Please use a size 12 font and double spacing.

Refer to the Sociology referencing guide on iLearn for referencing style.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- The ability to sociologically analyse historical and contemporary practices of intimacy, with particular attention to concepts of love, romance, sex, sexuality, and friendship.

Essay 2: Literature Review

Due: **Week 8 (5 May)**

Weighting: **30%**

This Literature Review will inform your Major Essay due in Week 13.

Choose an essay question from the list of suggested questions (available on iLearn from Week 4)

OR

Write your own question that relates to one weekly topic from this course.

If you write your own question, this must be approved by your tutor in your Week 5 tutorial.

Word count: 1200 (including references)

Submit assignment through turnitin.

Please use a size 12 font and double spacing.

Refer to the Sociology referencing guide on iLearn for referencing style.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- An understanding of key concepts, issues and contemporary debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to sociologically analyse historical and contemporary practices of intimacy, with particular attention to concepts of love, romance, sex, sexuality, and friendship.
- An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.
- Demonstration of advanced research skills through an ability to source and analyse key arguments and debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to conduct independent research that demonstrates original thought.

Essay 3: Major Essay

Due: **Week 13 (9 June)**

Weighting: **40%**

Using the literature you have gathered for your Literature Review (Essay 2), as well as feedback you received from this assignment, respond to your chosen essay question.

Your question must remain the same as for Essay 2, unless a modified question has been suggested/approved by your tutor.

Word count: 2000 (including references)

Submit assignment through turnitin.

Please use a size 12 font and double spacing.

Refer to the Sociology referencing guide on iLearn for referencing style.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- An understanding of key concepts, issues and contemporary debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to sociologically analyse historical and contemporary practices of intimacy, with particular attention to concepts of love, romance, sex, sexuality, and friendship.
- An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.
- Demonstration of advanced research skills through an ability to source and analyse key arguments and debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to conduct independent research that demonstrates original thought.

Delivery and Resources

The unit will be delivered as 1x2 hour weekly lectures and 1 hour weekly tutorials.

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_2016.html

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources 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 outcome

- The ability to conduct independent research that demonstrates original thought.

Assessment task

- Essay 3: Major 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

- An understanding of key concepts, issues and contemporary debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- Demonstration of advanced research skills through an ability to source and analyse key

arguments and debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.

- The ability to conduct independent research that demonstrates original thought.

Assessment tasks

- Essay 1: Critical Review
- Essay 2: Literature Review

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

- An understanding of key concepts, issues and contemporary debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to sociologically discuss love, sex, and friendship with peers.
- The ability to sociologically analyse historical and contemporary practices of intimacy, with particular attention to concepts of love, romance, sex, sexuality, and friendship.
- An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 2: Literature Review
- Essay 3: Major 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

- An understanding of key concepts, issues and contemporary debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to sociologically discuss love, sex, and friendship with peers.
- The ability to sociologically analyse historical and contemporary practices of intimacy, with particular attention to concepts of love, romance, sex, sexuality, and friendship.
- An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.
- Demonstration of advanced research skills through an ability to source and analyse key arguments and debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1: Critical Review
- Essay 2: Literature Review
- Essay 3: Major 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

- An understanding of key concepts, issues and contemporary debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to sociologically analyse historical and contemporary practices of intimacy, with particular attention to concepts of love, romance, sex, sexuality, and friendship.
- An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.
- Demonstration of advanced research skills through an ability to source and analyse key arguments and debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to conduct independent research that demonstrates original thought.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1: Critical Review
- Essay 2: Literature Review
- Essay 3: Major 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

- The ability to sociologically analyse historical and contemporary practices of intimacy, with particular attention to concepts of love, romance, sex, sexuality, and friendship.
- An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.
- Demonstration of advanced research skills through an ability to source and analyse key arguments and debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to conduct independent research that demonstrates original thought.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1: Critical Review
- Essay 2: Literature Review
- Essay 3: Major 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 outcomes

- An understanding of key concepts, issues and contemporary debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to sociologically discuss love, sex, and friendship with peers.
- Demonstration of advanced research skills through an ability to source and analyse key arguments and debates in the sociology of intimate relationships.
- The ability to conduct independent research that demonstrates original thought.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1: Critical Review
- Essay 2: Literature Review
- Essay 3: Major 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

- The ability to sociologically discuss love, sex, and friendship with peers.
- The ability to sociologically analyse historical and contemporary practices of intimacy, with particular attention to concepts of love, romance, sex, sexuality, and friendship.
- An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1: Critical Review
- Essay 3: Major 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

- The ability to sociologically discuss love, sex, and friendship with peers.
- An awareness of how gender, class, race, and sexuality differences (among other differences) can intersect and influence different practices and possibilities of intimate relations.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
02/03/2017	Corrected essay due dates. Added tutor information.