



PSYX3350

The Psychology of Human Relationships

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Psychology

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Julie Fitness

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

PSYX234 or PSYX2234 or PSY234 or PSYU2234

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 enmity; 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:

ULO1: Demonstrate your ability to explain contemporary issues in human relationships from a psychological perspective, with reference to relevant literature.

ULO2: Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in

the field of human relationships.

ULO3: Demonstrate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of research methods used in relationship research.

ULO4: Apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues in a reflexive, culturally-sensitive manner.

ULO5: Analyse and critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Research Report	25%	No	28/8/20
Essay	35%	No	6/10/20
Final Examination	40%	No	Final examination period

Research Report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **28/8/20**

Weighting: **25%**

Students submit an 800 word report critically reviewing relevant psychological literature on a relationship-related issue.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate your ability to explain contemporary issues in human relationships from a psychological perspective, with reference to relevant literature.
- 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 in a reflexive, culturally-sensitive manner.
- Analyse and critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **6/10/20**

Weighting: **35%**

The essay of 1300 words assesses students' ability to critically evaluate scientific knowledge and formulate a coherent and intelligent discussion of a relevant issues within the psychology of human relationship.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate your ability to explain contemporary issues in human relationships from a psychological perspective, with reference to relevant literature.
- Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing explanations of issues in the field of human relationships.
- Demonstrate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of research methods used in relationship research.
- Apply findings from empirical research on relationships to real-world relationship issues in a reflexive, culturally-sensitive manner.

Final Examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 44 hours

Due: **Final examination period**

Weighting: **40%**

Final examination held within the University's formal exam period, in accordance with relevant requirements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate your ability to explain contemporary issues in human relationships from a psychological perspective, with reference to relevant literature.
- 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 in a reflexive, culturally-sensitive manner.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Prescribed text:

Fletcher, G., Simpson, J., Campbell, L., & Overall, N. (2013). *The science of intimate relationships*. New York: Wiley-Blackwell.

Note: 2nd edition is available but a second-hand copy of the 1st edition is fine.

Important reference text:

Simpson, J., & Dovidio, J. (Eds.) (2015). *APA Handbook of personality & social psychology: Volume 3: Interpersonal relations*. American Psychological Association: Washington, DC.

Useful sources (there are many more in the library):

Ciarrochi, J., Forgas, J., & Mayer, J. D. (Eds.) (2006), *Emotional intelligence in everyday life* (2nd ed.). New York: Psychology Press.

Fletcher, G. J. O., & Clark, M. (Eds.) (2001), *Blackwell handbook of social psychology (Volume 2): Interpersonal processes*. MA: Blackwell.

Forgas, J. P., & Fitness, J. (Eds.) (2008). *Social relationships: Cognitive, affective, and motivational processes*. NY: Psychology Press.

Hart, S. L., & Legerstee, M. (2010). *Handbook of jealousy*. UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Leary, M. (Ed.) (2000). *Interpersonal rejection*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Noller, P., & Feeney, J. (Eds.) (2006). *Close relationships: Functions, forms, and processes*. New York: Psychology Press.

Noller, P., & Karantzas (2012) (Eds.), *The Wiley-Blackwell handbook of couples and family relationships*. UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Reis, H., & Rusbult, C. (Eds.) (2004). *Close relationships: Key readings in social psychology*.

New York: Psychology Press.

Sprecher, S., Wenzel, A., & Harvey, J. (2008). *Handbook of relationship initiation*. New York: Taylor & Francis.

Sternberg, R., & Weis, K. (2006). *The new psychology of love*. NH: Yale Uni. Press.

Vangelisti, A. (Ed.) (2013). *Routledge handbook of family communication*. NY: Routledge.

Vangelisti, A., & Perlman, D. (Eds.) (2018). *The Cambridge handbook of personal relationships*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Useful Journals:

Journal of Family Psychology

Journal of Marriage and the Family

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

Journal of Social and Personal Relationships

Personal Relationships

Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin

Personality and Social Psychology Review

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(http](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central)

[s://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
22/07/2020	Change to staff contacts.