PSY 350
The Psychology of Human Relationships
D2 2012

Psychology

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https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/23149/unit_guide/print
# General Information

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<th>Unit convenor and teaching staff</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Samantha Adams</th>
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<td>Tutor</td>
<td>Alissa Beath</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Unit Convenor</td>
<td>Julie Fitness</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:julie.fitness@mq.edu.au">julie.fitness@mq.edu.au</a></td>
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<td>Unit Convenor</td>
<td>Mem Mahmut</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tutor</td>
<td>Katelin Sutton</td>
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**Credit points**

3
Unit guide PSY 350 The Psychology of Human Relationships

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 third-year unit examines a variety of relationship topics from a social psychological perspective including attraction, love- and mate selection; kinship, friendship and enmyship; 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://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Research Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Monday 27th August 10:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Brief Oral Report</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Tuesday 2nd October 10:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Final exam period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tutorial Research Report

Due: **Monday 27th August 10:00am**

Weighting: **20%**

The purpose of this report is to give students some experience of finding and critically reviewing relevant psychological literature on a relationship-related question of their own choosing. Markers will be looking for a well-structured, coherent and thoughtful critique of the chosen literature. Details will be available in tutorials and on the PSY350 Website.

Word length: 700 words maximum

Where to submit: Psychology Assignment Box

Date of return of marked report: Week 7, during tutorials.

Note: Both the paper copy and electronic of the Report are due at the same time. The paper copy is to be submitted to Psychology Box and the electronic copy is to be submitted to Turnitin.

Extensions

Ordinarily, no extensions of time for submission of written work will be granted since ample time for its preparation will have been given. If an extension is required for medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may request this by submitting an online request via ask.mq.edu.au with supporting documentary evidence (such as medical certificate, counsellor note, or similar). The staff in the FHSSSC will make all decisions regarding extensions. Neither individual tutors nor the course convenor will grant extensions. All requests for extensions must be made prior to the due date for the assignment.

If an extension is granted, you will need to print the approval email and attached to the assignment. Failure to do so will result in a late penalty being applied as the marker will not know that an extension has been granted.

If you have any queries, please contact the staff in the Faculty of Human Sciences Student Services Centre in Level 3, Building C3A.

This Assessment Task relates to the following 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 issue
• critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

**Tutorial Brief Oral Report**

Due: **TBA**  
Weighting: **5%**

A brief (2-3 minute) oral presentation based on the Tutorial Research Report will be given in tutorials. Details will be available in tutorials and on the PSY350 Website.

**Tutorial Participation**

Due: **Ongoing**  
Weighting: **5%**

Tutorials are compulsory; however, there is no point coming to tutorials and sitting through them wishing you were somewhere else. We want to encourage active discussion and participation in tutorials and will award up to 5% of the tutorial grade in recognition of your contribution to the learning experience, both for yourselves and others.

This Assessment Task relates to the following 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 issue
• critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

**Essay**

Due: **Tuesday 2nd October 10:00am**  
Weighting: **30%**
The essay is designed to assess students’ ability to critically evaluate scientific knowledge and formulate a coherent and intelligent discussion of the relevant issues of a topic within the psychology of human relationships. The essay questions will be available in the first week of tutorials. Specific details about the essay will be available on the PSY350 web site and provided in tutorials.

Word length: 1500 words maximum

Due date: Tuesday 2nd October (Week 8) before 10:00 am

Note: Both the paper copy and electronic of the essay are due at the same time. The paper copy is to be submitted to Psychology Box and the electronic copy is to be submitted to Turnitin).

Date of return of marked essay: Week 13, in the lecture and then from the Psychology Office.

Extensions

Same applies as per information listed above (at Tutorial Research Report)

This Assessment Task relates to the following 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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Final exam

Due: Final exam period
Weighting: 40%

Final exam (2 hours duration, 40%)

The multiple choice exam is designed to assess knowledge and understanding of material covered in the lectures, textbook, and readings. It will comprise 80 questions, each worth 0.5 marks. The exam will be held during the University examination period.

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process, the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period. Supplementary Examination in the Department of Psychology will be held on the 13 and 14 of December, 2012. The format of a supplementary examination is at each unit conveners’ discretion and is subject to change from the original final examination.
This Assessment Task relates to the following 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 issue
- critique so-called pop-psychological approaches to relationships from an informed, scientific perspective and effectively communicate findings

### Delivery and Resources

#### Classes

**Lectures:** Thursdays, 11 am – 1 pm, X5B T1

**Tutorials:** tutorial per week, *starting Week 2*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Email Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11 - 12</td>
<td>C4A-245</td>
<td>Mem</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>1 - 2</td>
<td>F9A-166</td>
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<td>2 - 3</td>
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<td>3 - 4</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>5 - 6</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>6 - 7</td>
<td>C4A-245</td>
<td>Alissa</td>
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Managing Tutorials

Changes to all units can be made on-line via eStudent. After Week 2, no further changes to tutorials can be made unless supporting documentation is provided and room is available in the requested tutorial class.

Note: It is University policy that the University issued email account will be used for official University communication. All students are required to access their University email account frequently.

Unit Schedule

Teaching and Learning Strategy

How is the unit taught?

The unit is taught through lectures and prescribed readings covering the core material and tutorials. The tutorials comprise practical activities and class discussions which complement the material covered in lectures. Tutorials are designed to enhance student involvement and provide focus on certain topics.

What is expected of students?

Students are expected to (a) listen to lectures and attend tutorials, (b) complete all forms of assessment, (c) read the prescribed materials, and (d) contribute to tutorial discussions. Note that attendance in tutorials is compulsory.

Lecture Outline
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecturers/Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Human Relationships: Types, Structures, Functions &amp; Processes</td>
<td>Fitness</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Text:</strong> Chapters 1 &amp; 6</td>
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<td>No tutorials this week</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Interpersonal Attraction &amp; Mate Selection (Hour 1)</td>
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<td><strong>Text:</strong> Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Maintaining the pair bond: Love &amp; Lust (Hour 2)</td>
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<td><strong>Text:</strong> Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Tutorials begin</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>16/8</td>
<td>Relationship Cognition</td>
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<td><strong>Text:</strong> Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Feelings &amp; Emotions in Relationships</td>
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<td>Friendship (Hour 2)</td>
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<td>Communication &amp; Conflict in Relationships</td>
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<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Text:</strong> Chapter 10</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Psychopathy &amp; Relationships (Hour 2)</td>
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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://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy  

Grade Appeal Policy  

Special Consideration Policy  
http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html

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

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: http://students.mq.edu.au/support/.

UniWISE provides:

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops  
  http://www.mq.edu.au/learning_skills/
Student Enquiry Service
Details of these services can be accessed at http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/.

Equity Support
Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Unit who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help
If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at 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 and it outlines what can be done.

Graduate Capabilities

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:

Assessment tasks
- Tutorial Research Report
- 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:

Assessment tasks
- Tutorial Research Report
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:

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Research Report
- Tutorial Brief Oral Report
- Tutorial Participation
- 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**

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

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:
Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Brief Oral Report
- Tutorial Participation

Required and Recommended Text


Recommended texts (on Special Reserve in the library):


**Useful Journals:**

- Cognition and Emotion
- Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology
- 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
- Psychological Science

**Technologies Used and Required**

Students will need access to a computer with basic office software (e.g., Microsoft Office, Open Office) to complete assessment tasks. Basic multimedia software (e.g., Windows Media Player, Quicktime) will be needed to listen to recorded lectures.

**What has changed**

There have been no significant changes since the last offering in 2011.

**Changes since First Published**

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<tr>
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