

**University of British Columbia
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**FMST 314-203: Relationship Development (3 credits)
COURSE OUTLINE - WINTER TERM 2 2020**

Instructor: Robyn Pitman, PhD (robyn.pitman@ubc.ca)
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Office: Anthropology and Sociology building: ANSO 2206
Office hours Wednesday and Thursday: 12:00pm to 1:30pm at the Learning Lounge, Level 3 of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

Teaching Assistant(s): Elydah Joyce (elydah@mail.ubc.ca)
Office and office hours: ANSO 108, by appointment only

Class Time: Wednesday: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Location: Anthropology and Sociology building, Room 207(ANSO - 207)

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

The study of the development, course, and decline of personal relationships.
Prerequisite: One of SOCI 200, PSYC 100, PSYC 101, PSYC 102, SOCI 240.

OVERVIEW

This course explores how relationships are developed, maintained, and dissolved with a focus on romantic relationships and friendships. Students will be encouraged to explore their own relational beliefs and what information they will apply into their own personal relationships. Relational theories, beliefs, current research trends, and relational processes and challenges will be explored in the context of monogamous relationships, consensual non-monogamous relationships, and sexual orientation (e.g., LGBTQ2). Students will be provided analytical and applied based learning experiences.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (LOs)

At the completion of the course, successful students will be able to:

1. Evaluate and apply relationship theories that include but not limited to social penetration theory, communication privacy management theory, and attribution theory.
2. Identify and describe how relational beliefs are developed and how media and personal experiences influence relational beliefs.
3. Interpret and apply current research findings in the field of personal relationships.
4. Practice giving and receiving critical constructive feedback in a collaborative environment while also integrating feedback into work products.
5. Identify and discuss the processes and challenges in personal relationships and how these can be supported.
6. Compare and contrast different relationship types that include romantic and friendships.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

This course consists of 1 - 2 hour and 50-minute class per week. Although this course will include a mixture of interactive forms of learning engagement, the focus of the course will be on active learning strategies. The most effective learning takes place through an active and constructive process as opposed to a passive process. Students are therefore expected to do more than simply memorize material presented by the instructor. Instead, the students and instructor will be constructing the course together. Students are invited to bring to class current examples from the media, personal experience, or other courses pertaining to current approaches and contemporary issues in personal relationships.

COURSE READINGS

All readings for the course are available through the Library Online Course Reserves through Canvas. See pages 4-5 for the schedule of readings.

COURSE WEBSITE

All components of this course will be housed on Canvas (<http://about.canvas.ubc.ca/>) including this course outline, assignments, and other course materials. Your assignments will be submitted on Canvas. Marks and feedback will also be released on the site. Please familiarize yourself with this website as soon as possible and visit it regularly throughout the semester.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment	LOs Addressed	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Relationship "Hack" Infographic			
Working Infographic Draft	#2, 3, 5	Wednesday Feb 5, 2020	2%
Online Peer Reviews (2 x 6%)	#3-4	Sunday Feb 23, 2020	12%
In-Person Peer Reviews (2 x 3%)	#3-4	Thursday Feb 27, 2020	6%
Infographic Fair Participation	#3-4	Wednesday Mar 18, 2020	10%
Final Infographic	#2-5	Wednesday Mar 25, 2020	25%
Midterm Test	#1-3, 5, 6	Wednesday Feb 12, 2020	20%
Final Exam	#1-3, 5, 6	To be announced	25%
Total			100%

OUTLINE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Relationship "Hack" Infographic: Working individually, students will create an infographic, which is a visual representation of information. Students will explore a relationship belief (e.g., your romantic partner fulfills all your needs) using two peer reviewed journal articles published within the last 15 years. Student will use research to create a relationship "hack", which is a strategy or technique, to address how the belief affects individuals and their relationships. Students will also be required to find additional resources to support individuals that could include podcast, websites, or self-help books. Students are also required to participant in peer reviews (both online and in-person) and participate in an infographic fair. Full assignment instructions are posted on Canvas under the *Modules* tab.

Midterm and Final Exam. The midterm and final exam are comprised of multiple-choice and short answer questions. Both the midterm (Weeks 1-5) and final exam (Weeks 6-13) are non-cumulative.

Research Participation (optional). There is an opportunity to earn a 1% bonus grade in the course by participating in a study evaluating the infographic assignment used in this course. To earn the 1% bonus grade, students must participate in the study twice: once at the beginning of the term and again at the end of the term. Bonus grades are not attached to the required assignments in the course and are added to your final grade in the course after final grades are calculated.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will be accepted for 5 days after the assigned due date with a penalty of 10% EXCEPT under documented grounds for academic concession. Written assignments submitted outside of the assigned late submission deadline without documented grounds will receive a grade of zero.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email me at robyn.pitman@ubc.ca. I will check emails on weekdays until 5pm Monday to Friday. I will not be checking my email on the weekends, so be prepared that it may take up to 48 hours to receive an email from me between Friday to Monday. I would appreciate you using an appropriate greeting followed by the instructor's correct name (e.g., Hi Robyn or Professor Pitman).

GRADES

After you receive a grade on Canvas, please review your feedback. **Any inquiry or dispute over the grade must be made within two weeks from the date they are posted.** If you fail to discuss any grade during this time limit, changes to the grade will not be considered. Grades will be based on the Grading Procedures outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,42,96,0>

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic misconduct, such as plagiarism, is a serious offence at the University of British Columbia. I will not tolerate academic misconduct and will follow the disciplinary guidelines set forth by the university should any violations occur. For offences, penalties, and procedures, please consult the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>

CENTRE FOR ACCESSIBILITY

The University accommodates students with learning challenges who have registered with the Centre for Accessibility. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let me know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated. Please discuss your commitments with me at least one week in advance of the scheduled assignment or exam. For more information, please visit <https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility>

ACADEMIC CONCESSION AND EARLY ALERT

If you cannot meet a course requirement due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise me as soon as possible prior to the due date. Please include a Student Self-Declaration form, found on the Arts Advising website: <https://students.arts.ubc.ca/advising/academic-performance/help-academic-concession/>. If you require a second concession, you must make your request to your Faculty Advising

Office. For further information on regulations and procedures for Academic Concession, please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar at: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>

During the term, I will do my best to reach out and offer support if I am concerned about your academic performance or wellbeing. I also encourage you to come and speak with me if you need assistance. In addition, I may identify my concerns using Early Alert. The program allows academic, financial, or mental health concerns to be identified sooner and responded to in a more coordinated way. This provides you with the earliest possible connection to resources like academic advising, financial advising, counselling, or other resources and support to help you get back on track. The information is treated confidentially and is sent because I care about your academic success and wellbeing. For more information, please visit <https://facultystaff.students.ubc.ca/systems-tools/early-alert>

COURSE SCHEDULE 2020

***Note.** This is a tentative schedule. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.

Week	Topics and Assigned Readings	Due Dates
1 Jan 8	<p>Introduction to Course and Relationship Beliefs</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Hussey, M. (2017). Is he the one? 5 questions to know for sure.</p>	
2 Jan 15	<p>Relationship Theories</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Manusov, V. (2017). Attribution theory: Who's at fault in families?</p>	
3 Jan 22	<p>Healthy Relationships and Being Single</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Sweatt-Eldredge, C. (2017, October 9). The little things that will make or break your relationship.</p>	<p>Last day to sign up for relationship beliefs through Canvas is Friday January 24. <i>On Canvas, click on the People link, click on the Groups tab, and you can self-enroll in the belief you want to do.</i></p>
4 Jan 29	<p>Dating and Attraction</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Miller, R. S. (2018). Chapter 3 : Attraction.</p>	
5 Feb 5	<p>Communication</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Stinnett, Stinnett, Degenova, & Rice (2017). Chapter 9: Power, decision making, and communication.</p>	<p>Working infographic drafts for peer review are due Wednesday February 5 by 11:59pm. <i>Late submissions are not accepted. If you do not submit a draft of your infographic, you cannot complete peer reviews. You will receive an automatic grade of 0 on the draft and both peer reviews.</i></p>
6 Feb 12	<p>1st half: Midterm (Weeks 1-5) 2nd half: Love</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> DiDonato, T. H. (2014, June 24). How you know if you're in love?</p>	
Feb 17 – 21	READING WEEK: NO CLASSES SCHEDULED	

Week	Topics and Assigned Readings	Due Dates
7 Feb 26	<p style="text-align: center;">1st half: Conflict 2nd half: In-Person Peer Review</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Tartakovsky, M. (2016, July 17). How conflict can improve your relationship.</p>	<p>Online Peer Reviews are due Sunday February 23 by 11:59pm. <i>No late submissions are accepted. If you do not complete the evaluation, you will receive an automatic grade of 0.</i></p> <p>In-Person Peer Review Evaluations are due Thursday February 27 by 11:59pm. <i>No late submissions are accepted. If you do not complete the evaluation, you will receive an automatic grade of 0.</i></p>
8 Mar 4	<p style="text-align: center;">Friendship</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Hall, J. A. (2011). Sex differences in friendship expectations: A meta-analysis. <i>Journal of Social and Personal Relationships</i>, 28, 1-25. DOI: 10.1177/0265407510386192</p>	
9 Mar 11	<p style="text-align: center;">Stresses and Strains</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Eckel, S. (2016, November). Listening to jealousy.</p>	
10 Mar 18	<p style="text-align: center;">Infographic Fair Location: UBC Life Building See Canvas for a list of presenters / attendees</p>	
11 Mar 25	<p style="text-align: center;">Infidelity and Violence</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Perel, E. (2015). Rethinking infidelity...a talk for anyone who has ever loved.</p>	<p>Final Infographics are due on Wednesday March 25 by 11:59pm. <i>Late submissions are due by Monday March 30 by 11:59 pm.</i></p>
12 April 1	<p style="text-align: center;">Dissolution and Disengagement</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Howe, L. (2016, January 20). Why some people take breakups harder than others.</p>	
13 April 8	<p style="text-align: center;">Maintaining and Improving Relationships</p> <p><u>Reading(s) / Media:</u> Miller, R. S. (2018). Chapter 14: Maintaining and repairing relationships.</p>	