Interpersonal Relations
Psychology 359 – Section 5261R – 4 Units
Location: SAL 101
Fall 2012 - MW - 12:00-1:50pm

Instructor: C. Miranda Barone, PhD
Office: SGM 529
Phone: (213) 740-5504  (email preferred)
E-mail: cbarone@usc.edu
Hours: MW 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:
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Keiko Kurita     SGM 913          kkurita@usc.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Required Text:
ISBN-13 9780078117152

Additional Readings are available through BlackBoard.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed as an overview to the field of interpersonal relationships. The major
theories of close relationships will be emphasized, including examinations of attraction,
attachment, social cognition, communication, interdependence. In addition, we will examine
the difference between casual and intimate relationships, theories of love, sexuality, and
relationship development. Finally, we will discuss common problems in relationships
(jealousy, shyness, loneliness, power, and conflict.

Course Objectives
The major goals and objectives of this course are to help you:

1) Understand current theories and research in the field of interpersonal relationships.
Specifically, this course will help further your understanding of topics such as: our need for
relationships, interpersonal attraction, love, attachment, communication, relationship
maintenance, relationship trajectories, relationship dissolution, jealousy, and infidelity.
2) Recognize how findings from relationship science can be applied to everyday experiences.
This goal will be met through completion of a course project.
3) Close relationships are one of the most significant experiences in our lives. For this reason,
a major goal of the class is to help you gain a better understanding of yourself, and your
relationships.
4) To read classic and contemporary studies about Interpersonal Relations, across disciplines
and subdisciplines.
Methods of Evaluation

Different methods of evaluation utilized to assess your mastery of course material include the following:

- **Examinations** (multiple choice and essay questions)
  There will be three mid-term exams and a final. The mid-term exams will be spread out over the semester and will not be cumulative. They will cover information from both readings and lectures. Mid-term exams will consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions. The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.

- **Relationship Study Paper**
  There will be an independent project.
  Report on an observed relationship situation, or about an article, book, or a movie about relationships (best to get it approved ahead of time). Narrow your observation to a specific incident, scene, or topic.
  Based upon your reading of the chapter(s) report your assessment of the relationship citing specific concepts and research that supports your positions.
  How long does it have to be?
  Long enough to do the assignment in a comprehensive manner. You will probably need about 5 pages to do a good job.
  What exactly should the paper include?
  1. An Assertion(s) – the general description of the relationship issue and what you identify as possible explanations, solutions, outcomes, etc.
  2. Theoretical or Conceptual Explanation(s) – a theory or concept which logically supports or refutes the assertion.
  3. Empirical Evidence – evidence of data resulting from field or laboratory study found in journal articles. (you do not have to collect data)

Does the paper have to be in APA style?
You should have a title page. References and the reference page should be in APA format, but the other things that APA style requires (e.g., Abstract, etc.) are not required.

Are references important?
Absolutely! You will need to spend some time in the library. DO NOT INCLUDE THE TEXTBOOK IN YOUR REFERENCE PAGE! A good (“A”) paper should include at least three references from appropriate professional journals.

When is it due?
There are three deadlines for this paper. Each group of topics, based on the chapter sections as listed on your syllabus, has a different deadline. The sections are: Basic Processes, Friendship and Intimacy and Relationship Issues.
Papers on Basic Processes Topic are due Oct. 24; Papers on Friendship and Intimacy Topics are due Nov. 14; and Papers on Relationship Issues are due on Dec. 5.
A HARD COPY OF YOUR PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN CLASS ON THE DUE DATE AND AN ELECTRONIC VERSION TO TURNITIN LOCATED IN THE ASSIGNMENT SECTION OF BLACKBOARD. Points will be deducted for late papers.

- **Extra Credit**

Participation in the Fall 2012 subject pool for the USC psychology department. You will receive 2 points for every 1 point in Subject Pool credit.

OR

Participation in JEP is a service-learning program in which participating students are placed individually in a local K-12 classroom as mentors or teaching assistants. Over the course of the semester, the participating students are required to attend two training sessions, write weekly reflection journals catered to topics derived from your course, and be on-site at a K-12 school for eight weeks at two hours per week. The options for participating students are Mentor, Teaching Assistant, and Special Assignment. During their assignments the students will be placed individually in a local K-12 classroom and work either one-on-one or with the whole class.

**NOTE- IF YOU DO JEP YOU MAY NOT ALSO GET EXTRA CREDIT FROM DOING EXPERIMENTS IN THE SUBJECT POOL.**

- **Grading Distribution**
  - 3 Quizzes (50- points each) 150 points
  - 1 Final Exam 75 points
  - Analysis Paper 50 points

  **Total Points** 275 points
  - Extra Credit 15 points

- **Requirements for achieving a specific grade are as follows:**

  93–100% (255-275) A 80–82.00% (220-227) B- 67–69.99% (184-191) D+
  87- 89.99% (239-244) B+ 73–76.99% (200-210) C 60–62.99% (165-172) D-
  83–86.99% (228-238) B 70–72.99% (192-199) C- Below 60% < 165 F

**Policies and Procedures**

- **Attendance and Participation**
  Participation, and therefore attendance, is expected. There will be many in-class activities, videos, and small group discussions that will help explain the material covered in class or lecture.

- **Students with Disabilities**
  Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification
for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is
delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301
and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is
(213) 740-0776.

- **Academic Integrity**
  USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic
  honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation
  that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the
  obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to
  avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and
  abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct
  Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:
  http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/
  Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards
  for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review
  process can be found at:
  http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/

- **Papers**
  Papers must be handed in at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date. Late papers
  will be marked down 1 point for each day they are late. *Late papers must be brought to
class and logged in. No email attachments will be accepted.*
  Students are asked to select to write on one of three topic areas:
  Basic Relationship Processes Topic due Oct. 24,
  Friendship and Intimacy Topics due Nov. 14, or
  Relationship Issues due on Dec. 5

  Students are required to sign up on-line by the third week of the semester. There will also
  be a maximum of 35 students per topic area. Sign up early! Switching to a different topic
  area will not be allowed after the third week.

  **A HARD COPY OF YOUR PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN CLASS ON THE DUE
  DATE AND AN ELECTRONIC VERSION TO TURNITIN LOCATED IN THE
  ASSIGNEMENT SECTION OF BLACKBOARD.**

- **Exams**
  Missed exams should not be made up except under special circumstances such as extreme
  illness or other emergencies, and religious observances. If you do miss an exam, please
  inform your instructor as soon as you return to class. Make-up exams must be competed
  within one week of the regularly scheduled exam.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 –</td>
<td>The Building Blocks of Relationships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 27 &amp; 29</td>
<td>What are Relationships?</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Sept. 3 –</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
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<td>Sept. 10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Early Relationships</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Psychologist, 13(12), 673-685.</td>
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<td>Bretherton, I. (1992). The origins of</td>
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<td></td>
<td>attachment theory: John Bowlby and Mary</td>
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<td>Ainsworth. Developmental psychology, 28(5),</td>
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<td>759-775.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>conceptualized as an attachment process.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>52(3), 511-524.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Attachment styles among young adults:</td>
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<td>A test of a four-category model.</td>
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<td>Journal of personality and social psychology.</td>
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<td>61(2), 226-244.</td>
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<td>attachment, working models, and relationship</td>
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<td>quality in dating couples.</td>
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<td>Journal of personality and social psychology.</td>
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### Dates and Assignments

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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong> –</td>
<td><strong>Sept. 17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chapters 1, 2, Readings, Syllabus, &amp; BlackBoard Content</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 19</strong></td>
<td><strong>Basic Processes in Relationships</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attraction</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chapter 3</strong></td>
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**Week 5**

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<tr>
<th>Sept. 24 &amp; 26</th>
<th>Attraction and Social Cognition</th>
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<td><strong>Chapter 4</strong></td>
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**Week 6**

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<tr>
<th>Oct. 1 &amp; 3</th>
<th>Communication</th>
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### Dates and Assignments

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<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Basic Processes Continued</th>
<th>Chapters 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6 And Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
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<td>Oct-17</td>
<td><strong>Exam Number 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Papers on Basic Processes Topic Due Oct. 24</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 22 &amp; 24</td>
<td><strong>Friendship and Intimacy</strong></td>
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<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Love</th>
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<td>Oct. 29 &amp; 31</td>
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<td>Dates</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Sexuality</td>
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<td>Nov. 5 &amp; 7</td>
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<td>Chapter 9</td>
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Frequently Asked Sexuality Questions to the Kinsey Institute


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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Exam Number 3</th>
<th>Chapters 6, 7, 8, &amp; 9 And Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td><strong>Relationship Issues</strong></td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Stress and Strains and Conflict</td>
<td>Papers on Friendship and Intimacy Topics due Nov. 14</td>
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<td>Chapter 10 &amp; 11</td>
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Dates     Topics     Assignments

Week 13
Nov. 19     Power and Violence
Chapter 12


Week 14
Nov. 26 & 28     Power & Violence
Dissolution and Loss
Chapter 13


Week 15
Dec. 3 & 5     Maintaining Relationships
Papers on Relationship Issues
Due on Dec. 5
Chapter 15


**Final Exam - Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.**

Review chapters, readings and class notes.

*Please note that changes in this syllabus may occur at the instructor’s discretion, and will be announced in class. You are responsible for any announced changes.*