

## PSY 2000: Psychology of Human Relationships Syllabus

**Professor:** Theresa Stueland Kay, PhD  
**Office Hours:** TBA

**Email:** via Canvas  
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### Required Textbook:

Miller, R. (2015) *Intimate Relationships*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, McGraw-Hill

### Objectives:

1. Increase **knowledge** of how relationship research is conducted and factors that increase and decrease relationship health and satisfaction.
2. **Apply** the knowledge to improve your relationship health and satisfaction.
3. **Values/Ethics:** Increase understanding and appreciation of diversity in relationships as well as understanding of ethical issues in research and relationships.
4. Increase oral and written **communication** skills.

### Grading:

All students have the potential to earn an "A" in this course. I make no effort to grade according to a "bell curve." Please note that while I might adjust exam scores according to overall class performance, I will not "bump up" borderline grades or make special arrangements with individual students to improve their grades. All students will be graded according to the following point system:

<b>Modality</b>	<b>Points</b>
Signature Assignment	100
12 Weekly Journals	120
10 Homework Assignments	100
<u>10 In-Class Assignments</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>420</b>

### Grading Scale

A 92+%, A- 90-91.9% B+ 88-89.9%, B 82-87.9%, B- 80-81.9%, C+ 78-79.9%,  
C 72-77.9%, C- 70-71.9%, D+ 68-69.9%, D 62-67.9%, D- 60-61.9%,  
E 0-59.9%

### Signature Assignment:

You are enrolled in the WSU General Education course, Psychology of Human Relationships, which is designed to tackle the following big question (BQ) "How does scientific psychology help us understand our relationships?" through the signature assignment of a (SA) Reflective Oral Presentation.

**Reflective Oral Presentation:**

Ten percent of your grade will be based on the Signature Assignment. You will give your Reflective Oral Presentation during the last week of classes. There will be several assignments during the semester to assist you with the preparation of giving your Reflective Oral Presentation, and the directions for those steps can be found in Canvas.

Your presentation will be 5 long, you will use PowerPoint (or similar program), and you will try to answer a particular BQ about relationships and reflect on how your understanding of relationships has changed as a result of your work on this project. You will get the most out of your topic if it applies to your life in some way. You can get topic ideas from relationship phenomena you observe or your text book. Sample BQs include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Can LGBTQ+ individuals be good parents?
2. How can I deal with conflict in my relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ more effectively?
3. How does stress make it harder communicate effectively with \_\_\_\_\_?
4. How can I keep my important relationships healthy?

**PLEASE REFER TO CANVAS FOR THE SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS, DIRECTIONS, AND DEADLINES FOR THE SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT.**

**In-Class Assignments:**

Success in this course depends heavily on class attendance and participation. Several times during the semester, we will do various assignments during class time. These will occur at random. Some activities will involve working in groups while others will involve working alone. You can miss 2 in-class assignments without hurting your grade. If you complete all of the in-class assignments, those will count for extra credit.

**Chapter Quizzes:**

You will not have any exams in this course. Instead, you will take quizzes on each chapter we cover. The links to those quizzes and the deadlines can be found in Canvas. You can complete these quizzes from any computer with internet access, and you are welcome to use your text book and class notes. You can complete the quizzes as early as you like, but LATE QUIZZES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You can also complete each quiz as many times as you like. I will only count your highest score.

## **Weekly Journals:**

Each week, I will give you a topic to discuss in your journal. Usually, this prompt will involve you applying a concept discussed in class and/or the text to your life in some way. Each journal will need to be 1 double-spaced page of text - this does NOT include your name, date, etc. The font needs to be 12-point, and the margins must not exceed 1 inch. Please be aware that I have read thousands of student papers over the years, and I will notice (and not appreciate) efforts to make a paper look longer than it really is.

## **WHAT IS THE WORKLOAD EXPECTATION FOR THIS COURSE?**

In this course, you should expect to spend a total of 42 hours on "in class" activities. In-class activities for an online class include reading PowerPoint presentations, viewing videos I provide; and checking discussions, checking emails, and checking announcements on a regular basis, and taking exams. Additionally, you should plan on spend a minimum of 84 total hours doing "homework" throughout the semester, which include reading the text and documents, completing homework, and studying for exams. That equals 126 hours, which is the university standard in-and-out-of-class workload expectation for a three-hour course under the semester system. If you are taking this course in a 7-week block, please be aware that it will be a very busy term for you.

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

While every effort will be made to adhere to the course outline, all times, topics, and subjects covered will be at the instructor's discretion and could change. Advance notice will be given if a change is necessary.

From time to time, I may need to be absent to participate in a professional conference. Please note that such participation is part of my job. If such an absence is necessary, you will be notified of it and any changes to the course schedule as soon as possible.

You have my permission to make audio recordings of my lectures for class purposes only. Using such recordings for any other purpose is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and may result in disciplinary action under PPM 6-22.

Email is the best way to communicate with me. I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours on weekends. Please be professional when you send email messages to your professors. Such emails should include a) an appropriate subject line (e.g. Psych 2000 and brief reason for email), b) address to the recipient (e.g. Dear Dr. Kay), 3) the use of full sentences in the body of your email, 4) and ending (e.g. Sincerely, Thank you) with your name.

If you have a question about the course, please post it in the Open Discussion forum. If you have a question, chances are high that your classmates have the same question. If you

know the answer to a classmate's query, feel free to answer it! I will be monitoring the Open Discussion, and I will contribute as appropriate.

At WSU, we value the diversity of the campus community, and we try to create an environment that encourages freedom of expression. Because a university is a setting in which inquiry and testing of new ideas occurs, it is essential that every person feel safe to express ideas that may differ from other WSU community members. This balance of respect for others and freedom of expression is not always easy to achieve, but we must challenge ourselves and each other in an atmosphere of mutual concern and respect. Consequently, expressions or behaviors that disparage one's ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability are in conflict with WSU's mission and will not be acceptable in classroom discussion.

As previously stated, your instructor uses Canvas for this course. You will have access to lecture notes, your grade book, and email in this environment. Please check your grade book often to ensure that your assignment and exam grades are entered properly. I will also communicate with this class via the Announcement tool.

Your instructor allows for a small amount of extra credit to be earned by participating in more than the required 10 in-class assignments. No other extra credit will be available.

**Emergency Closure:** If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via Canvas. Look for announcements on Canvas. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

**DISABILITY NOTICE:**

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request. Please refer to SSD's website for more information: <http://weber.edu/ssd>

**PLEASE REFER TO CANVAS FOR THE COURSE SCHEDULE**