



Department of Psychology
PSY420H5S Special Topics In Social Psychology
Spring 2018

Schedule
Mondays 9:00am - 12:00 pm
Location DV 1158A
(DAVIS)

Course Details

Instructor

Prof. Emily Impett
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Office Hours: Deerfield Hall 4018, Fridays 9 :00am to 10 :00am

Teaching Assistant

Rebecca Horne
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Course Description

In this seminar, we will explore a relatively new topic of inquiry in social psychology: positive perspectives on close relationships, with a particular emphasis on romantic relationships. Each week, we will discuss readings on different topics in the study of close relationships from a positive perspective. Over the course of the semester, you will each be responsible for leading an in-class discussion about a research article, contributing to class discussions, writing weekly thought papers, conducting library research, writing an innovative research proposal, and delivering a final presentation about your research topic.

Reading Materials

Course readings will consist of selected journal articles and book chapters. All course readings will be posted online for download at the beginning of the semester on Blackboard.

Evaluation

Contributions to Class Discussion

As a seminar class, attendance is expected, and your participation is essential. It is imperative that you actively participate in class discussions, activities, and exercises, as it will make learning more interactive, fun, and personally relevant. Your participation grade will depend on the *quality* as well as quantity of participation. I will keep a record of your participation throughout the term. Signs of good participation include attendance, punctuality, eagerness to participate in class discussions, respecting other people's contributions, facilitating discussion, paying careful attention to your classmates' presentations, and offering constructive feedback, questions and comments. I do *not* want class discussions to be monopolized by the same 3 or 4 people. You should make an effort to talk, but not so much that you do not give others a chance to participate. Your class presentation will account for **15% of your total grade.**

Article Presentation

Throughout the semester, each of you will be responsible for leading a group discussion about a particular article. I will assign articles and presentation dates on the first day of class. You should begin by summarizing the theory and the main findings from the study or studies included in the article, and then stimulate class discussion by presenting possible limitations, interesting directions for future research, as well a stimulating questions to guide class discussion. Your article presentation will account for **15% of your total grade.**

Weekly Thought Papers

To foster thoughtful, exciting and worthwhile discussion, I will ask that you prepare reaction papers to the weekly readings. I've designed this assignment to get you *thinking* about the readings, while ensuring that everyone has some time to contribute during class discussion. You have some freedom to decide *how* to complete this assignment. Spend some time highlighting the main points of the readings, but most of your paper should do other things such as connect the main points of the articles for that week, critique a study or its findings (or the authors' interpretation of the findings), develop new ideas, or propose a new study. Papers must be turned in at the beginning of class, be typed on *one single-spaced* page, and follow APA style (please, do not include a title page or references). You are required to turn in **four** reaction papers, although which specific weeks you choose are up to you. These reaction papers will account for **20% of your final grade**.

Research Paper

A major product of the course will be the development of your individual research proposal. This paper should deal with a topic or question about relationships that you find to be *personally interesting* and *intriguing*. To help you prepare for writing this final paper at two different points in the semester, I will ask you to turn in drafts of: (a) your proposed topic and research questions (**5% of your grade**) and (b) your proposed methods (**5% of your grade**), and you will be given feedback on each of these things. Your final papers should be no longer than 11 double-spaced pages in length, and include: a title page (1 page), an overview of your topic and research questions (~ 1 page), a critical review of the literature (~ 4 pages), your proposed method (~ 2 pages), conclusion and implications (~ 1 page; the "so what?" part of your paper), and references (~ 2 pages). Your final research paper is due on the last day of class and is worth **25% of your total grade**.

Final Presentation

The last two classes of the semester are reserved for final presentations of your research proposals. I will assign presentation dates about midway through the semester. You should use Powerpoint slides to guide your presentations. Your presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in length, with an additional five minutes to answer questions, for a total of 15 minutes for each presentation. The final presentation is worth **15% of your total grade**.

Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via BlackBoard <http://portal.utoronto.ca>. You don't need to create a new login for Blackboard; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/> In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Blackboard. If you have any general questions regarding Blackboard, please visit the following help site: <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/students.htm>

Course Policies

Extensions, and Penalties for Lateness

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request directly to the Instructor for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) must be submitted to the Psychology Academic Counselor or dropped off in the drop box located outside the Psychology office Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students are expected to submit requests to the Department before the last day of the term, unless demonstrably serious reasons prevent them from doing so. In the event of an illness, medical certificates or doctor's notes must confirm that student was ill on the due date of the assignment (for a one-day extension). For a longer extension, documentation must specify the full duration during which academic work could not be carried out.

For extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions>.

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/>.

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

Disabilities

Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the university's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the university itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with -- and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Please take the time to review the Academic Integrity website:

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/students>.

- Common trends in academic offences:
- Plagiarizing/concocted references
- Collaboration/unauthorized assistance
- Purchasing work
- Recycling work - "double-dipping"
- Resubmitting of altered work for re-grading
- Electronic devices (cell phones) or any unauthorized aids
- Altering medical certificates and UofT documents

From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: "It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly: represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known." All students must refer to this website to obtain information on what constitutes plagiarism. <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

If questions arise after reading the material on the website, consult your instructor. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vp-equity@utmsu.ca.

Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.

- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth 25% or more in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

If questions arise after reading the material on the website, consult your instructor.

Course Outline		
Date	Topic	Assignments
January 8	Introduction and Course Organization	No assigned readings
January 15	What is the positive psychology of relationships?; Using psycinfo	Gable & Haidt (2005) Maisel & Gable (2009) McNulty & Fincham (2012)
January 22	Communal relationships: Responding to needs	Fritz & Helgeson (1998) Le, Impett et al. (2017) Kogan, Impett et al. (2010)
January 29	Self expansion: Cultivating fun and excitement	Aron et al (2000) Tsapelas, Aron, & Orbuch (2009) Coulter & Malouff (2013)
February 5	Sacrifice: Giving up self interest	Van Lange et al (1999) Impett, Gable, & Peplau (2005) Le & Impett (2013)
February 12	Gratitude: Giving thanks	Algoe, Gable, & Maisel (2010) Gordon, Arnette, & Smith (2011) Joel et al (2013) RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSED TOPIC AND QUESTIONS DUE
February 19	NO CLASS: Family Day	
February 26	Workshop for Research Paper	No readings – come prepared to discuss your topic with the professor and in small groups
March 5	Forgiveness: Letting go	Finkel et al. (2002) McNulty (2008) McNulty (2011)
March 12	Sexuality: Getting it on	Impett, Peplau, & Gable (2005) Muise, Impett, Kogan, & Desmarais (2013) Kim, Muise, & Impett (in press) RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSED METHODS DUE
March 19	Capitalization: Celebrating good times	Gable, Reis, Impett, & Asher (2004) MacGregor & Holmes (2011) Gable, Gosnell, Maisel, & Strachman (2012)
March 26	Student presentations	
April 2	Student presentations	FINAL PAPER DUE