

# PSY327H5F – Interpersonal Relationships

Tuesday and Thursday 2:00pm – 5:00pm

## Course Delivery

### ONLINE VIA QUERCUS

The course will be taught online via Zoom during class hours (2:00pm – 5:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays). Link to Zoom lectures will be posted on Quercus before each lecture. Note that we will monitor class attendance by registering students' presence in the Zoom lecture (under "Participants"). Assignments for this course will be submitted in Quercus under Assignments, and tests will be administered in Quercus under Quizzes.

### Learn Anywhere Guide for Students

<https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/students/quercus/learn-anywhere>

## Contact Information

### Dr. Mariko Visserman

Email: [m.visserman@utoronto.ca](mailto:m.visserman@utoronto.ca)

Virtual Office hours: Thursdays 12.30pm – 1.30pm

A recurring Zoom link will be posted on Quercus that includes a « virtual waiting room » so that students can each have private meetings. Students can also schedule individual office hours (also to be held via zoom) with the TAs.

### Teaching Assistants:

**Rebecca Horne**

[r.horne@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:r.horne@mail.utoronto.ca)

**Stephanie Buono**

[stephanie.buono@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:stephanie.buono@mail.utoronto.ca)

**Emailing your instructors:** As your first contact on matters regarding accessibility concerns, comments or concerns about the class, or related matters, you can email your instructor at [m.visserman@utoronto.ca](mailto:m.visserman@utoronto.ca). We are also happy to review material and clarify content in office hours. E-mail should **not** be seen as an alternative to attending office hours with your TAs or instructor, and questions that could benefit others should be asked in class or posted to the appropriate discussion board on the course website. When emailing us, please include "PSY327H5F" and the topic of your email in the subject line. We will try to respond to all emails within 2 business days. All email must come from an official utoronto.ca account.

## Course Description

The objective of this course is to review what relationship science can tell us about close relationships, with a particular focus on romantic relationships. We will explore questions such as: Why do we want to be in relationships, what informs our choice of relationship partners, what predicts satisfaction and stability in relationships, and what is the role of sexuality in relationships? These and other questions will be examined from a variety of theoretical perspectives and will be applied to better understand real-world relationship functioning. General topics include theory and methods of relationships, attachment, attraction, social cognition, commitment, sexuality, conflict, breaking up, and maintaining high-quality relationship.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Define and apply classic theories, current research, and common methods in the field of relationship science.
2. Identify relationship science in pop culture and daily life, and evaluate it according to the principles discussed in class.
3. Effectively communicate relationship science to lay audiences.
4. Form new research ideas that can make an important contribution to the science of relationships.

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## Materials

**Miller, R. S. (2018). *Intimate Relationships* (8th Edition). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-1-259-87051-4**

An **e-book** version should be available through the UofT bookstore. Additional course materials will be posted on the course website, including the syllabus, required readings/handouts, and links to external sources. Please make sure to check Quercus frequently for important announcements and reminders.

Peer-reviewed Articles: In this course, you are assigned two peer-reviewed articles that each complement a lecture topic. You will find the articles below in the respective lecture folders on Quercus:

Lecture 3: Visserman, M. L., Impett, E. A., Righetti, F., Muise, A., Keltner, D., & Van Lange, P. A. M. (2019). To “see” is to feel grateful? A quasi-signal detection analysis of romantic partners’ sacrifices. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *10*, 317-325.

Lecture 7: Van der Wal, R. C., Karremans, J. C., & Cillessen, A. H. (2014). It takes two to forgive: The interactive role of relationship value and executive control. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *40*, 803-815.

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## Course Structure

### Lectures

To succeed in this course, you are expected to actively attend lectures. During lectures, I will present material not covered in the readings, expand on important points in the readings, and discuss new developments in the field. You are encouraged to ask questions during the lectures, and also learn from your class mates’ questions.

### Reading

The textbook is a supplement to the lectures; some assigned chapters will review or expand on what we discuss in class, while others will expose you to important topics that we will *not* be discussing together. To get the most out of the lectures, please complete all readings (i.e., textbook chapters and articles) *before coming to class*.

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## Course Evaluation

There are **four** pieces of assessment for this course (in chronological order): a Blog Report (15%), Midterm Test (25%), Research Proposal (30%) and Final Test (30%).

### Relationships Blog Report (15%)

Answer a question you have about relationships using academic research. Your assignment will follow the style of posts on [www.luvze.com](http://www.luvze.com): short, to the point, engaging, and grounded in academic research. Think of a question you have about relationships; find 2-3 academic research articles that answer this question; write a short post (about 400-600 words) answering this question using the research you found. The assignment is due by **May 19<sup>th</sup>, 11.59pm**, and will be marked by the teaching assistants.

### Midterm Test (25%)

The Midterm test will be a combination of multiple choice and short essay questions, and will cover all information from lectures, the textbook, and research articles discussed in lectures 1 to 5. The test will take place on **May 26, 2:10-4:40pm** and will be completed in Quercus under Quizzes. *Note that the test will be open-book but must be completed individually and according to the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.*

## Research Proposal (30%)

The goal for this assignment is to delve deeper into a relationship topic that particularly interests you. Grounded in a literature review, you will form a new research idea to advance knowledge on this topic, including research methods to test this idea. Your Research Proposal will be 8 pages maximum (not including title page and references), double-spaced. You will be graded based on the thoroughness of your literature review, importance and novelty of your research idea, appropriateness of your research design, potential impact of your predicted results, and the overall quality of your writing (i.e., organization, logical flow). The assignment is due by **June 9<sup>th</sup>, 11.59pm**, and will be marked by the teaching assistants.

As with other psychology courses, you will be expected to follow APA guidelines (including using 12pt Times New Roman font and 1" margins). You may find these resources helpful:

- APA guidelines & sample paper: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- U of T Writing Support: <http://writing.utoronto.ca/>

## Final Exam (30%)

The Final exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short essay questions and will be **cumulative** and will cover all information from lectures, the textbook, and research articles discussed in ALL lectures. The exam will be scheduled during the Summer exam period in June.

## Schedule

Relationships Blog Report	15%	Due 23.59pm, Tues., May 19 <sup>th</sup>
Midterm Test (2.5 hours)	25%	2:10-4:40pm, Tues., May 26 <sup>th</sup>
Research Proposal	30%	Due 23.59pm, Tues., June 9 <sup>th</sup>
Final Exam (2.5 hours)	30%	TBA

## A Note About Grades

We (your TAs and I) understand that grades are important to you, and we will do our very best to grade everything fairly, in a timely manner, and to provide as much feedback as possible about what you have done well and how you could improve. However, if you ever need clarification on this feedback you are welcome to speak with the person who graded that paper/test. Please keep in mind that we follow the U of T grading policy, which you can review here: <http://writing.utoronto.ca/advice/general/grading-policy>. Finally, we will do our best to return marks to you within 2 weeks of the date we receive the assignments and tests, and an announcement email will be sent to alert you when grades have been posted. If you believe that your term work has been unfairly marked: *before disputing a grade, take some time to reflect upon your performance and grade.*

## Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

**Note:** You don't need to create a new login for Quercus; 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 Quercus. If you have any general questions regarding Quercus, please visit the following help site:

<https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670/pages/student-quercus-guide>

## **IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES \*\*PLEASE READ\*\***

### **Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process**

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department (NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at: <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

**Important note:** Once the test/exam is available online and you're unable to write or have an approved request to miss, **DO NOT** at any point attempt to access the test/exam. If you at any time access the test/exam, you will **NOT** be able to submit a special consideration and/or your request will be refused.

**If your request is approved by the department, redistribution will apply.** If you miss the Midterm Test, the weight of the Midterm (25%) will be transferred to the Final Exam. If you miss the Final Exam, your deferred exam will take place during the special deferred period.

### **Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process**

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.

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>

### **Supporting Documentation**

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

### **Penalties for Lateness**

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

### **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.

## **AccessAbility Services**

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**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

### In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

### On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

### In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

**With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:**

### Remote assessments:

1. **Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.**
2. **Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.**
3. **Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.**
4. **Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."**
5. **Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.**

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

## **Turnitin**

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity

and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site [<http://turnitin.com/>].

## **Lecture Recording & Use of Course Materials**

Materials provided to you by your instructor (including the syllabus, slides, instructor's lecture recordings, rubrics, etc.) are for your use only. *They are not to be posted in any public access forum or otherwise distributed without explicit permission from your instructor.* Non-compliance with these terms violates an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

## **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](mailto:edo.utm@utoronto.ca) or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at [vpequity@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpequity@utmsu.ca).

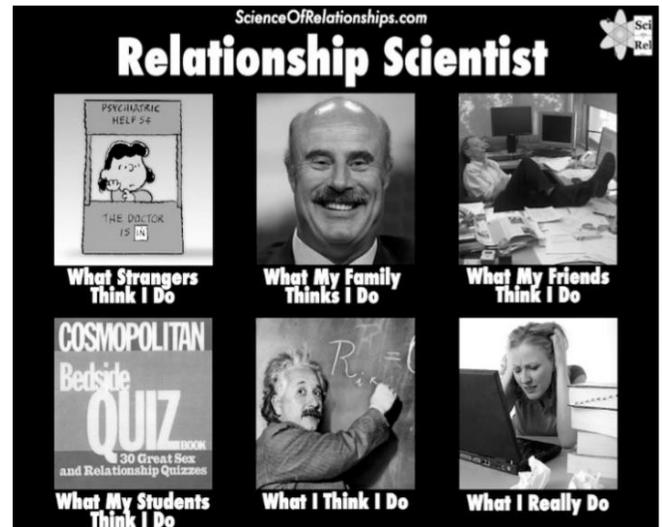
## **Academic Rights**

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.
- 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.

## A Cautionary Word

As you read about relationships and reflect on them, you may find yourself noticing and thinking about your own relationships and those of people to whom you are close. Efforts to understand what is happening in these relationships can facilitate your learning of the material you are studying – and this is great! 😊 However, I urge you not to take on the role of “expert” or “therapist” in your own or others’ relationships, interpreting people’s behavior and explaining to others what it means. Not only is it inappropriate in your current role, it may also be hurtful to those you love and care about. Instead, talk to people about what you are learning and solicit their ideas and observations to extend your own understanding of relationships and course material.



***Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before.***

## Course Outline

Date	Topic	Readings
May 5	The Building Blocks of Relationships	Chapter 1
May 7	Research Methods & Attraction	Chapters 2 & 3
May 12	Gender & Sexual Orientation (Guest lecture: Rebecca Horne) Social Cognition	Chapter 4 Article: Visserman et al. 2019
May 14	Communication & Friendship	Chapters 5 & 7
May 19	<b>Blog Report due today by 11.59pm</b>	
May 21	Interdependency	Chapter 6
May 26	<b>Midterm test</b> (2.5 hours, 2:10pm – 4:40pm)	
May 28	Love & Sexuality	Chapters 8 & 9
June 2	Stresses & Strains	Chapter 10 Article: Van der Wal et al. (2014)
June 4	Conflict, Power & Violence (Note: we will discuss intimate partner violence in this lecture)	Chapters 11 & 12
June 9	<b>Research Proposal due today by 11.59pm</b>	
June 11	Relationship Dissolution (Guest lecture: Yoobin Park) Maintaining & Repairing Relationships	Chapters 13 & 14
	<b>Final Exam (TBA)</b>	