Syllabus – Fall 2025 – PSYC 3370 – Psychology of Close Relationships MWF 11:15am – 12:10pm
STE 127

Instructor Information: Kristie Allen, M.A.

Hello! My name is Kristie Allen. I serve as a lecturer for the Department of Psychology and Counseling. I graduated from Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI) with my Bachelors in Psychology and later from UT Tyler with my Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I am passionate about working with college students to find meaning in their coursework and a greater purpose in their educational journey. Close relationships with romantic partners, friends, and family form the basis of human life. As social animals, we seek out belonging and closeness with others. Such relationships influence our health and well-being across the lifespan. However, maintaining and thriving in close relationships can be a challenging task. I am looking forward to diving into this fascinating topic with you all this semester! The best way to contact me is to send a message through CANVAS. I usually respond to messages within one business day, Monday through Friday. Weekend availability will vary. You can also e- mail me directly at kallen@uttyler.edu or call me at (903) 566-6177.

Each Wednesday, I will be available from 12:30pm-2:00pm in my Office (HPR 214) or via ZOOM for Office Hours.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/82203054072?pwd=dCcy4cNoXq7R3SoSZ21VCbFSH5gPRC.1

Meeting ID: 822 0305 4072
Passcode: 444092

I am committed to facilitating a learning environment that is equitable, inclusive and welcoming and that fosters a climate of mutual respect and full participation. I expect you all to demonstrate that same level of respect to one another. Please be kind, open-minded, and receptive to feedback as that is the best way to ensure you get the most you can out of this class.

Personal Applications & Impact

It is impossible to study Psychology without thinking about our own lived experiences – that would take all the fun out of it! However, some topics we study may not be relevant to your own experiences, and your own experiences may not be consistent with the

material presented. This does not mean that the research I present is inaccurate or that your experiences are “wrong”. No psychological study will account for every person’s experiences. In addition, some of the material in this class may provoke strong feelings about your past experiences or current life. It is a specific goal of this course to make sure you become good consumers of psychological information and sometimes that will mean challenging your own prior beliefs, values, and experiences.

Course Catalog Description:

In this course, students will investigate the formation, maintenance and dissolution of close relationships, with a focus on friendships, familial relationships, and adult romantic relationships. Students will also work to identify factors that promote or interfere with relationship functioning and consider how relationships affect our general health and well-being.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students who complete this course will be able to:
- Explain how relationships are associated with human survival, physical health, and mental health.
- Describe the scientific method, different types of research study, and ethical considerations in regard to Relationship Science.
- Define, describe, and apply a broad range of close relationship psychological theories
- Describe what contributes to the formation of friendships, familial relationships, and adult romantic relationships as well as how these relationships are subsequently endured or dissolved over time.

Textbook(s):

Goodfriend, W. (2020). Intimate Relationships. Sage Publications.

ISBN: 9781506386164

NOTE: A student at UT-Tyler is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available

Evaluation and Grading:

Quizzes	There will be four quizzes completed via Canvas. Each quiz will have 25 questions worth 1 point each	100
Exams	There will be 2 exams completed via Canvas. Each exam will have 50 questions worth 2 points each	100
In-Class Activities	There will be 5 in-class activities, each worth 20 points. These are noted on the course outline so you can make sure you are present and plan ahead. If you miss class you will miss the points.	100
Attendance	You will all start the class with 20 points for attendance on Canvas. You are allowed to miss 4 classes with no penalty. Once you surpass 5 classes, I will begin taking off 5 points per absence.	20
Relationship Focus Group Presentations	See Canvas for Instructions	60
Course Reflection	Completed via Discussion Board. See Canvas for Instructions	20
	Total Points	400
Extra Credit: I will give extra credit questions on each exam and quiz. You will also have the opportunity to complete an "Article Analysis" Assignment OR the "Somebody That I Used to Know" Assignment *for 20 extra credit points.*		

360-400 points: A

320-359 points: B

280-319 points: C

240-279 points: D

<239 points: F

Course Flow – What Can You Expect?

The first 10 minutes of class will be considered an interactive study hall. Because reading is SO important for your success in this course, my expectation is that you will have read before class. However, I want to give you some time to reread and freshen up on the material so you can be active and engaged listeners who have things to contribute to our discussion. This also gives you a little bit of time to get to class and get situated and for me to take attendance.

Minutes 10 through 45 will usually be composed of a lecture (unless noted on the syllabus) and we will leave the last 5 minutes for reflection, burning questions, and any housekeeping items we need to discuss.

Attendance

A 2010 meta-analysis of the relationship between class attendance in college and college grades found that class attendance is a better predictor of college grades than any other known predictor of academic performance (Crede et al., 2010). Much of our learning will happen while working with peers and through our group discussions. These are learning experiences that are almost impossible to make up individually. I will take attendance using Mentimeter each class meeting. You are allowed 4 absences over the course of the semester. There is no need to e-mail me or let me know you will be missing. You will all start out with 20 points (5% of overall grade) in the Canvas gradebook. Once you surpass 4 absences, I will start deducting 5 points for each absence

Important Note – Because I clearly define which days we will be completing in-class activities, I firmly advise against missing any of those days as I will not provide you the opportunity to makeup that work.

Credé, M., Roch, S. G., & Kieszczynka, U. M. (2010). Class attendance in college: A meta-analytic review of the relationship of class attendance with grades and student characteristics. Review of Educational Research, 80(2), 272-295.

Quizzes and Exams:

- Quizzes/Exams will open Wednesdays after class at 12:10pm and will remain open until 11:59pm on Friday evening.
- You may use the OERs, Power Points, notes, but NOT another person. Do not rely on these items exclusively because of the time constraints. You really need to KNOW the material.
- Each quiz is a mixture of 25 questions, true/false and multiple choice. Each exam will be 50 questions, true/false and multiple choice.
- The quizzes are timed at 60 minutes, exams will be timed at 120 minutes.
- Please study as if this was an in-person quiz!
- Please read the section on academic dishonesty. It is not tolerated *AT ALL*. If cheating is suspected, you will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs

Relationship Focus Group Presentations:

- You will be responsible for splitting off into groups of THREE to complete one 7-minute presentation over the course of the semester. There are SEVEN Relationship Focus Topics (see weekly schedule). Each one of these Focus Topics have 4 peer-reviewed journal articles identified as containing important information pertaining to a comprehensive understanding of. You and your group will sign up to review ONE of these articles for your presentation. Once you have formed a group, chose an article from the master spreadsheet, and follow the steps below.
- Step 1: Each group member should read the article in its entirety.
- Step 2: Your presentation should cover 1) what research question or problem the article addresses; 2) who the participants were and how they were selected; 3) what research methods were used and how the researchers measured what they said they were going to measure; 4) what were the main findings? Don't just spew numbers here! I want to know how this information is valuable to us, scholars of relationship research. 5) what are the main strengths and weaknesses of this study? Do you see any directions for future research in this area?
- PPT – At least 48 hours before your presentation, please send me a 1-2 pg. PPT slide to serve as a visual aid. You do not need to write EVERYTHING you are going to say on the slide, but you can definitely use it to guide you.

Course Schedule:

Week 1		
Monday	August 25	Syllabus Day
Wednesday	August 27	Chapter One: An Introduction to Relationship Science
Friday	August 29	Chapter One Continued
Week 2		
Monday	September 1	LABOR DAY; No In-Person Class
Wednesday	September 3	Chapter Two: Research Methods and Analyses in Relationship Science
Friday	September 5	Chapter Three: Attachment Theory
Week 3		
Monday	September 8	Chapter Three Continued
Wednesday	September 10	Chapter Three Continued - IN CLASS ACTIVITY **Introduce Relationship Focus Group Presentation**
Friday	September 12	Quiz Day # 1 – No In-Person Class
Week 4		

Monday	September 15	Chapter Four: The Evolutionary Perspective
Wednesday	September 17	Chapter Five: Interdependence Theory
Friday	September 19	Chapter 5 Continued
Week 5		
Monday	September 22	Chapter Six: Relationships Across the Life-Span IN CLASS ACTIVITY
Wednesday	September 24	Chapter 6 Continued **Sign-Up Due for Relationship Focus Group Presentations**
Friday	September 26	Quiz Day # 2 – No In-Person Class
Week 6		
Monday	September 29	Chapter Seven: Friendship
Wednesday	October 1	Chapter Seven Continued
Friday	October 3	VIDEO + IN-CLASS ACTIVITY: Marisa G. Franco TED Talk
Week 7		
Monday	October 6	Relationship Focus: Siblings
Wednesday	October 8	Relationship Focus: Professional Relationships
Friday	October 10	Relationship Focus: Self
Week 8		
Monday	October 13	Relationship Focus: Community
Wednesday	October 15	Exam 1 Review – Attendance Optional
Friday	October 17	Exam 1 – No In-Person Class
Week 9		
Monday	October 20	Self-Care Day; NO IN-PERSON CLASS
Wednesday	October 22	Chapter Eight: Attraction
Friday	October 24	Chapter Eight Continued
Week 10		
Monday	October 27	Required Listening: Why the “Good Enough” Relationship Beats the “Perfect Partner” (The Happiness Lab) Date Like a Scientist (The Happiness Lab)
Wednesday	October 29	Required Listening: The Science of Fleeting Connections (The Happiness Lab) In-Class Activity

Friday	October 31	Quiz Day # 3 – No In-Person Class
Week 11		
Monday	November 3	Relationship Focus: Technology and Intimate Relationships (Online Dating)
Wednesday	November 5	Relationship Focus: Technology and Friendships (Social Media)
Friday	November 7	Relationship Focus: Animal Companions
Week 12		
Monday	November 10	Chapter Ten: Social Cognition
Wednesday	November 12	Chapter Ten Continued In-Class Activity
Friday	November 14	Chapter Eleven: Communication and Conflict in Close Relationships
Week 13		
Monday	November 17	Chapter Eleven: Continued In-Class Activity
Wednesday	November 19	Work Day – No In-Person Class
Friday	November 21	Quiz Day # 4 – No In-Person Class
Week 14 - Thanksgiving Break – November 24 – November 28		
Week 15		
Monday	December 1	Chapter Twelve: Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence
Wednesday	December 3	Chapter Thirteen: Ending or Enduring Love
Friday	December 5	Final Exam Review – Attendance Optional
Final Exam Week December 8 – December 12; Exam 2 Due Wednesday, December 10 by 11:59pm		

Academic Dishonesty:

Canvas has tools that shows when/if a student has plagiarized information. It will generate a report once you submit your work and any information matching other sources will be highlighted in a document. I am sure you know that this would be considered to violate our Academic Dishonesty Policy and you will be turned into the Student Affairs office for review. Your work must be original and in your own words. I cannot stress enough; make sure ALL of your work is ORIGINAL. If you aren't sure if the work you are about to submit abides by the academic dishonesty policy of the university) don't submit it. You know if the work you are submitting is completely original. Make sure that you always include in-text citations as well as a Works Cited page in APA format with all of your work. For assistance with APA formatting, you may visit the writing center on campus and find this site to be helpful:

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/.

University Policies

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php (Links to an external site.)

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus- (Links to an external site.)

carry/index.php

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit

www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free. (Links to an external site.)

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Fall 2025 Census Date – September 8

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the

Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. (Links to an external site.)Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W, grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit

https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices, (Links to an external site.)the SAR office located in the University Center #3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

- "Cheating, includes, but is not limited to:
  - copying from another student's test paper;
  - using during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
  - failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
  - possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes,. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
  - using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
  - collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
  - discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
  - divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;

- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;

- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of U. T. Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and,
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

- "Plagiarism, includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as agift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for
- "Collusion, includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic
- All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism

CEP Vision and Mission and Program Standards

CEP Vision

The CEP will be a global leader in responding to needs in the fields of education, psychology, and counseling, with a focus on the East Texas region, by creating innovative academic and scholarly pathways and partnerships.

CEP Mission

The mission of the CEP is to prepare competent and passionate professionals in the fields of education, psychology, and counseling; to advance knowledge and expertise; and to impact these fields locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.