

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3640 3.0 A: PSYCHOLOGY OF INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS
Friday / 08:30-11:30 / CLH L
Fall/2024-2025

Due to ongoing repairs in our assigned classroom (CLH L), for the **first four weeks of classes we will be holding online, synchronous lectures** through Zoom – see eClass for link. Any changes to the course format will be communicated during class time and through eClass.

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Jorida Cila

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: joridac@yorku.ca

T.A.	Akshita Uppot (Last names: A – Le)	Rizk Elmadbak (Last names: Li – Z)
Email	uppotaa@yorku.ca	rizk@yorku.ca
Office Hours	By appointment	By appointment

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology)
- HH/PSYC 2120 3.00 (Social Psychology)
- Completed at least 54 earned credits

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: [eClass](#)

All course materials will be available on the course eClass site. The site will be your central access point for course materials (e.g., lecture slides, additional readings), and for regular communication from the teaching team (course instructor and TAs). It is strongly encouraged that you regularly check the course eClass site and always read email notifications so you do not miss any important communication.

What to do if you have a question?

- The syllabus is a great place to start looking for answers to some of the most commonly asked questions.
- If you are unable to find the answer in the syllabus, you are encouraged to ask your questions in class or through the Q & A Forum on eClass so that everyone has access to the same information.

- Questions about missed exams, course content, and administrative issues should be directed to Dr. Cila at joridac@yorku.ca
- Questions about grades should first be directed to the person who graded your assignment, i.e., your TA. In case of a grade dispute, we ask that you wait 24 hours before reaching out to your TA. During this time, we encourage you to carefully consider the feedback you have received from your TA (if applicable), and review the assignment rubric. If you still have questions or concerns about your grade, ask clear and specific questions to your TA (e.g., “On page 3, paragraph 1, you had mentioned that I needed to provide more details to illustrate my point. I thought that I had provided sufficient details, so I would appreciate it if you could provide me with some more feedback on what exactly was expected.”). Please note that a regrade means that your grade may go up, down, or remain unchanged. In the event that a grade concern cannot be settled with the person who graded your work, please reach out to Dr. Cila to explain your concerns, and include a copy of your communication with your TA.

Course Description

In this course, students learn about research and key theories on the psychology of intimate relationships. Topics include romantic attraction, relationship formation, relationship maintenance, sacrifice, support, sexuality in relationships, as well as relationship conflict and break-ups. The course content covers different types of intimate relationships (e.g., monogamous, consensually nonmonogamous, marriage, intercultural), in different contexts (e.g., long-distance, online) and will highlight implications of relationships for health and personal growth. You will likely find many of the topics we will be discussing to be relatable and applicable to your own life.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate and apply important theories, research, processes, and methods in relationship science.
2. Critically evaluate research findings in relationship science based on methodological rigor.
3. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings in relationship science based on diversity in relationship experiences and structures.
4. Present and evaluate relationship science research, formulate a novel research idea that can contribute to the field, articulate how you would go about testing that idea, and demonstrate this process in written form.
5. Connect foundational principles of relationship science to modern-day, real-world applications.

Required Text: Bradbury, T. N., & Karney, B. R. (2024). *Intimate Relationships* (4th ed.). WW Norton & Company. This book is also available online as an ebook for a lower cost. *Note: You can order the regular or e-version of the book through the York bookstore.*

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Term paper: initial proposal	October 6, 2024	5%
Midterm	October 25, 2024	35%
Term paper: Final research proposal	November 17, 2024	25%
Final exam	Final exam period: Dec 5 – 20, 2024	35%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

Term paper: Intimate relationships are a key aspect of peoples' lives, and we can all relate to many of the topics we will be covering throughout the course. For this assessment component, you are free to choose any topic you like within the area of intimate relationships. Your task is to propose a research study that advances our understanding of your chosen topic.

This assignment consists of two parts. You will first submit an initial proposal (worth 5% of your final grade), on which you will receive feedback from your TA, then submit the final proposal (worth 25% of your final grade), which should reflect the received feedback. Rubrics for each of these paper components will be shared at a later date. We will also take some time in class to discuss the term paper.

Midterm and Final exam: These will be based on textbook and lecture material. Final exam is not cumulative. Both will include a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. More details will be provided closer to the date.

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – [Grading Scheme for 2024-2025](#)

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment

For missed midterm or final exam, students **MUST** complete the [departmental form for missed exams](#) **within 48 hours of the original deadline**. Failure to do so, will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam. At this time, an Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required, however, a valid reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided. Examples of valid reasons typically include illness, death or serious family emergency, etc. If traveling over the holidays, please be mindful of the final exam period and do not book any travel between December 5-20, 2024. Please get in touch with your instructor as soon as you become aware that you will not be able to attend an exam.

Please note that there will be only one opportunity to write a make-up exam, typically within 1-2 weeks of the original test date, and details on it will be provided through a course announcement.

If you miss the final exam, you will have to apply for deferred standing.

[HH PSYC: Final exam/Assignment deferred standing agreement](#): Completion of this form is mandatory, and the deadline to submit it is no later than one week after the missed examination or the last day of classes.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to [Undergraduate Fall/Winter 2024-2025 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	September 18	September 18	January 20
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	October 2	October 16	January 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	November 8	February 7	March 14
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	November 9 – December 3	February 8-April 4	March 15-April 4

Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

Electronic Device Policy

Laptops or other devices should not be used during class time for non-course-related purposes. This is not only detrimental to the student using their electronic device inappropriately, but also negatively affects the learning experience of fellow students.

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with the updated [Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures](#) (effective September 1, 2024). It is the student's responsibility to read and become familiar with this policy and to comply with the principles and practices of good academic conduct. The following are resources

It is recommended that students complete the following:

- Academic Integrity Tutorial
<https://www.yorku.ca/health/academic-honesty/>
- York University Libraries Academic Integrity workshop “*Learn to Stop Worrying about it*”
<https://yorku.libcal.com/calendar/libraryworkshops?cid=7880&t=d&d=0000-00-00&cal=7880&inc=0>
- Academic Integrity Quiz
<https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/enrol/index.php?id=52143>

Group Messaging Tools

Group messaging platforms, such as Discord or WhatsApp, can be helpful tools that connect students and support learning. However, such tools can lead to academic honesty violations when students share or use answers to homework tasks, quizzes, tests, or exams, or when students collaborate on individual assignments. According to York's [Senate-approved Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures](#) these behaviours may lead to a penalty. Moderators of these groups are required to clearly communicate the group's purpose and to remind students of the expectations for academic honesty. Being a member of such a group is not a breach of academic honesty or any other university policy. However, if you witness academically dishonest behaviour, it is strongly recommended that you leave the group. If you are unsure whether the behaviour is a violation of academic honesty, check with your TA or instructor. For detailed information about expectations for academic honesty, please refer to York's [Senate-approved Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures](#).

Homework Help Sites

According to homework sites (such as Chegg), their services are intended to support students' understanding of course material. Despite this, cheating occurs on tests and exams when students post their test or exam questions to these sites during the assessment in order to obtain answers from one of their experts. Using the answers provided is a breach of academic honesty, according to York's [Senate-approved Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures](#). If you're struggling with course material, understanding

expectations, or in any other way, reach out to your instructor or TA instead of relying on homework help sites to acquire assessment answers. For authorized resources and sources of help at York, please visit: <https://www.yorku.ca/unit/vpacad/academic-integrity/student-resources/>.

Contract Cheating

Contract cheating occurs when a third party completes a student's work, and the student then submits that work as their own. Third parties can include: freelance academic writers or tutors, online essay writing companies, friends, classmates, or even family members. Contract cheating is considered to be a serious type of academic dishonesty that carries severe penalties. Besides penalties imposed by the university, contracting a third party to complete academic work carries the additional risks of identity theft and blackmail. If you are unsure whether a certain resource is a legitimate source of help, check with your TA or instructor. For authorized resources and sources of help at York, please visit: <https://www.yorku.ca/unit/vpacad/academic-integrity/student-resources/>. As well, for detailed information about expectations for academic honesty, please refer to York's [*Senate-approved Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures*](#).

Unauthorized Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration occurs when students work together on assessments without their instructor's permission. This can include working together to solve homework problems, comparing their homework, test or exam answers, collaborating to complete assignments, or having someone else write or revise an assignment. Sometimes collaborating on assessments with other students is acceptable, yet at other times, individual effort is required. This can vary by course, instructor, or assessment. Even when it comes to group assignments, individual work may be required at different stages. If you are unsure whether collaborating on assigned work is permitted or the extent of collaboration that is acceptable, review the instructions for that assessment, and/or ask your instructor or TA. Note: even if collaboration on an assessment is permitted, it is never acceptable copy someone else's work or allow them to copy yours.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as misusing another person's published or unpublished work by presenting their ideas, writing or other intellectual property as one's own without proper acknowledgement ([*Senate-approved Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures*](#)). There are a number of acts that are considered to be plagiarism, for example:

- copying content word-for-word from a source without proper citation;
- paraphrasing from a source without proper citation; submitting work you have already submitted for another course without the instructor's approval;
- rewording someone else's work which you submit as your own;

- having a third party complete work in whole then submitting it as one's own (also known as contract cheating).

Although plagiarism is often thought to involve words and ideas, it can also involve drawings, paintings, photographs, programming code, statistics, presentations, musical scores, among other types of content. Even if the act of plagiarism was unintentional, you can still receive a penalty. To avoid plagiarism, keep good track of any outside sources you use, and ensure that you cite sources properly. For more help on how to avoid plagiarism, contact the [Library](#), [Writing Centre](#), or your instructor or TA.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

The final paper will be submitted on eClass through Turnitin, a program designed to detect plagiarism by checking student submissions against information available online.

Plagiarism-related concerns will be taken very seriously. Serious cases of plagiarism will be addressed at an exploratory meeting on academic honesty at the department level. More information on plagiarism and how it relates to our course in particular will be provided in class.

Content Sharing Sites (e.g. CourseHero, OneClass, StuDocU, etc.)

Posting of course related materials (lecture slides, recordings, assignments, etc.) on content sharing sites is prohibited. Please refer to [York's policy on copyright](#) for more information.

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

The use of generative AI tools in the preparation or completion of homework, assignments, tests, exams or any other form of assessment in this course is prohibited. Using such tools for any part of an assessment may be treated as a breach of cheating as outlined in York University's [Senate-approved Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures](#).

In this course, every element of each course assessment must be fully prepared by the student themselves. The use of generative AI is not permitted, and its use may be treated as a breach of academic honesty. For more information, please refer to York University's [Senate-approved Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures](#).

It is recommended that you retain drafts of assignments in case you need to refer to them later or in case they are needed if academic misconduct is suspected.

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as "Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation" (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or "encouraging, enabling or causing others" (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

Course Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 2120 P course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Calumet and Stong Colleges' Student Success Programming:

[Calumet](#) and [Stong](#) Colleges aim to support the success of Faculty of Health students through a variety of **free programs** throughout their university career:

- [Orientation](#) helps new students transition into university, discover campus resources, and establish social and academic networks.
- [Peer Mentoring](#) connects well-trained upper-year students with first year and transfer students to help them transition into university.

- [Course Representative Program](#) aims to build the leadership skills of its Course Reps while contributing to the academic success and resourcefulness of students in core program classes.
- [Peer-Assisted Study Session \(P.A.S.S.\)](#) involve upper-level academically successful and well-trained students who facilitate study sessions in courses that are known to be historically challenging.
- [Peer Tutoring](#) offers one-on-one academic support by trained Peer Tutors.
- Calumet and Stong Colleges also support students' [Health & Wellness](#), [leadership and professional skills development](#), [student/community engagement and wellbeing](#), [Career Exploration](#), [Indigenous Circle](#), [Awards & Recognition](#), and [provide opportunities to students to work or volunteer](#).
- Please connect with your Course Director about any specific academic resources for this class.
- For additional resources/information about [Calumet and Strong Colleges Student Success Programs](#), please consult our websites ([Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)), email us at scchelp@yorku.ca, and/or follow us on Instagram ([Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)), X (formerly Twitter: [Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)), Facebook ([Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)) and [LinkedIn](#)
- Are you receiving our **weekly email** (Calumet and Stong Colleges - Upcoming evens)? If not, please check your Inbox and Junk folders. If you do not find our weekly emails, then please add your 'preferred email' to your Passport York personal profile. If you need support, please contact ccscadm@yorku.ca, and request to be added to the listerv.

Feel free to consult [additional resources and student supports at York University](#)

Course Schedule

	Topic	Chapters
September 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course • Love and why it matters & Influential theories 	1 & 2
September 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching intimate relationships • <i>Research proposal</i> 	3
September 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting together: Romantic attraction 	7
September 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying together: Nurturing intimacy 	8
October 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship conflict • Questions on research proposal <p><i>Research proposal outline due Oct 6 by 11:59pm</i></p>	10
October 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infidelity • Midterm review 	11
October 18	<i>Reading Week – no classes</i>	
October 25	<p>Midterm – in regular classroom</p> <p><u>What is included:</u> all lectures and readings to date</p>	
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality influences • Interpreting experience 	6 & 12
November 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual intimacy • Final questions on research proposal 	9
November 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress and context <p><i>Research proposal due Nov 17 by 11:59 pm</i></p>	13
November 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships across the lifespan 	14
November 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving relationships • Final exam review 	15

Note. Unless explicitly stated, students are responsible for reading chapters in their entirety.