

# Psychology of Interpersonal Behavior

PSYC 3110, Spring 2020  
Section 015 (CRN: 15352)  
MW 5:30-6:45pm  
Classroom South 428

(This is a sample syllabus for a 50% attendance “Blended”/hybrid course. This syllabus is not updated for any upcoming semesters.)

---

**Instructor:** Miklós Halmos, M.A.  
**Office:** 709 Urban Life  
**Phone:** 404-413-6335  
**E-mail:** [mhalmos1@gsu.edu](mailto:mhalmos1@gsu.edu)  
**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 2:00pm-4:00pm, or by appointment

---

*This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.*

## **Required Materials:**

**Text:** Miller, R.S. (2018). *Intimate Relationships (8<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. New York, New York: McGraw Hill. A copy is on reserve in the Library should you need it.

Additional readings for assignments, information distributed in class, or posted on iCollege will also constitute required reading.

## **Course Description:**

The overall objective in this course is to promote an understanding of conceptual and practical aspects of effective and ineffective interpersonal behaviors and communication. This will be facilitated through both online lecture and experiential exercises in class to practice the development of effective interpersonal behaviors. Student discussion and participation are not only encouraged but expected. Because this class will also encourage reflection on one’s own communication style and experiences, **each student will be expected to maintain confidentiality outside of class and behave with respect and maturity.**

This course will utilize a “flipped” structure in which students will review readings and pre-recorded lectures BEFORE attending a subsequent class reviewing and discussing that material. As such, it is VITAL that students review posted content online beforehand and come prepared to participate in class discussing material. At the start of each class, students will have to submit written questions or comments on the material to the instructor which will be collected and awarded points as a measure of attendance as well as participation in class (see Attendance below).

In addition, GSU has instituted a “blended/hybrid” class attendance policy for this course in which half of students will attend the first meeting of the week and the second half on the second meeting of the week. Please refer to GSU communications and iCollege for further information.

For example, students with last names starting with A-L attend Tuesdays ONLY, and students with last names M-Z attend Thursdays ONLY. As such, please make sure to review lectures and readings prior to the class you need to attend each week. Please see the course schedule for when the “1<sup>st</sup> half” and “2<sup>nd</sup> half” of each roster meet. You will encounter difficulty in understanding this material and achieving our learning objectives if you are not an active partner in this new learning environment.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. This policy and course structure may change based on the effects of the Covid19 pandemic on instruction at GSU as mandated by public health and government officials. Please monitor university communications for guidance.

### **Learning Objectives:**

Students who successfully complete this course should have sufficient understanding and mastery of the principles and theories of interpersonal behavior. As part of this process, students will develop their abilities to:

- Increase knowledge regarding theoretical and empirical aspects of interpersonal communication
- Facilitate critical thinking with regard to theories and ideas brought forth by scholars in the study of interpersonal psychology
- Increase knowledge of techniques used to enhance relationships
- Develop sensitivity, understanding, and critical thinking about interpersonal behavior in diverse cultures and populations
- Participate in classroom activities/discussions
- Demonstrate interpersonal skills learned in class

### **Prerequisites:**

**The prerequisite for 3110 is Psyc 1101 or the equivalent.** The GSU registration system will not allow students to register without having completed the prerequisites. Waivers for prerequisites will not be considered for regular students. Only post-baccalaureate and transient (visiting) students may request a prerequisite waiver through the main office of the Department of Psychology. No other requests for waiver of prerequisites will be considered.

### **Required Technology:**

**Email:** All students are required to activate their university e-mail account (ending in 'student.gsu.edu'). If you have questions about how to activate or use your free university email please see:

[technology.gsu.edu/technology-services/it-services/email-and-file-storage/panthermail/](https://technology.gsu.edu/technology-services/it-services/email-and-file-storage/panthermail/).

Please only use the email written above ([mhalmos1@gsu.edu](mailto:mhalmos1@gsu.edu)). It is critical you include information about **which course** you are in—“PSYC 3110”— and your **full name** in the subject line of your email. Any emails sent to a different address, including through iCollege, or that do not include “PSYC 3110” may not receive a response.

**iCollege:** The classroom and iCollege are the primary ways that your instructor will communicate with you. On iCollege you will review asynchronous lectures, submit assignments,

receive feedback and grades, access supplemental class materials, and find links to online resources. All members of class are expected to check the course iCollege site regularly and carefully throughout the semester.

**Software:** Written assignments must be submitted in Microsoft Word (\*.doc or \*.docx) format, unless otherwise specified.

### **University Policies:**

**Disabling Conditions:** Georgia State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought. If your condition is identified during the semester, please see me as soon as possible after you have received the relevant supporting documentation so we can make accommodations for the remainder of the term. Retroactive accommodations for previous performance cannot be offered, so if you have a disability, it is important to let me know at the onset of the semester. The Access and Accommodations Center at each campus can be contacted here: <https://access.gsu.edu/about-us/contact-us/>.

**Hybrid Course Family Educational Rights Privacy Act statement:** In keeping with USG and university policy, this course website will make every effort to maintain the privacy and accuracy of your personal information. Specifically, unless otherwise noted, it will not actively share personal information gathered from the site with anyone except university employees whose responsibilities require access to said records. However, some information collected from the site may be subject to the Georgia Open Records Act. This means that while we do not actively share information, in some cases we may be compelled by law to release information gathered from the site. Also, the site will be managed in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which prohibits the release of education records without student permission. For more details on FERPA, go [here](#).

**Withdrawals:** You may receive a W or a WF for this course if you voluntarily withdraw before the midpoint of the semester, depending on whether or not you have exceeded your limit of withdrawals with a grade of W. Specifically, students will automatically be awarded a W if they have not exceeded their limit and a WF if they have. A grade of WF is treated as an F for GPA calculation purposes (for detailed information, see [www.gsu.edu/registrar/withdrawals.html](http://www.gsu.edu/registrar/withdrawals.html).) Official withdrawal from this course is the responsibility of the student and must be approved by either the Registrar's Office and/or the Office of the Dean of Students Services. Students who do not follow the formal withdrawal procedure or who try to withdraw after the semester midpoint will receive a grade of F. The last day to withdraw with a possible grade of "W" (except for hardship withdrawal) is **March 3, 2020**.

**Academic Honesty:** For a full explanation of academic dishonesty, see the GSU student code of conduct at: <http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/>. The most common types of academic dishonesty are plagiarism, cheating on assessments, and unauthorized collaboration. **At minimum, the penalty for academic dishonesty or plagiarism in this course is the grade of "0" on the assignment**

**or test.** It is imperative you do not “borrow” phrases or sentences from text, friends, the Internet, or other sources.

**GSU Department of Psychology Definition of Plagiarism:** If a student uses or relies on others’ work in preparing any academic materials (e.g. written assignments, posters, presentations) the student must cite the source correctly according to the directions provided by the instructor. Failure to do so is plagiarism. Copying and pasting even part of a sentence or phrase is plagiarism, even when the source is cited correctly. Paraphrasing a source in a way that copies the phrase or sentence structure of a source is also plagiarism. To avoid plagiarism, students are expected to properly paraphrase others’ ideas.

Quotes in scientific writing should only be used when the wording of the original source is critical to the student’s argument. Whether quoting is appropriate in a given instance is at the discretion of the instructor, not the student.

**Cheating and Unauthorized Collaboration:** Cheating includes the use or sharing of any unauthorized materials and/or assistance before, during, or after an assessment (e.g. exams, tests, quizzes). Unless otherwise specified by your instructor, you may not discuss an assessment or share materials or information with any other student at any time. Unauthorized collaboration occurs under the same circumstances as cheating, but involves assignments outside of the classroom (e.g. papers, projects, presentations) rather than assessments.

**Multiple Submissions:** It is a violation of academic honesty to submit substantial portions of the same work for credit more than once without the explicit consent of the faculty member(s) to whom the material is submitted for additional credit. In cases in which there is a natural development of research or knowledge in a sequence of courses, use of prior work may be desirable, even required; however, the student is responsible for indicating in writing, as part of such use, that the current work submitted for credit is cumulative in nature.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Students are also expected to know the University’s policy on disruptive behavior in the classroom. The following link details expected classroom behavior of Georgia State University students: <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwsen/minutes/2002-2003/disrupt2.html>. Students who exhibit behaviors that an instructor considers obstructive or disruptive to the class or its learning activities (e.g., sleeping, habitually coming in late or leaving early, text messaging, talking out of turn, inappropriate verbal, nonverbal, or physical behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the instructor) will be treated according to the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Remember, if you are asked to leave the class due to any disrespectful or disruptive behavior defined above, you will lose participation and activity points, which make up a substantial portion of your grade.

**Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Misconduct and/or Violence:** In instances of sexual misconduct, the present instructor and teaching assistants are designated as Responsible Employees who are required to share with administrative officials all reports of sexual misconduct for university review. If you wish to disclose an incident of sexual misconduct confidentially, there are options on campus for you to do so. For more information on this policy,

please refer to the Sexual Misconduct Policy which is included in the Georgia State University Student Code of Conduct (<http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/>).

**Campus Carry:** The Campus Carry legislation allows anyone properly licensed in the state of Georgia to carry a handgun in a concealed manner on university property with noted exceptions. Information about the law can be found at [safety.gsu.edu/campus-carry](http://safety.gsu.edu/campus-carry). It is the responsibility of the license holder to know the law. Failure to do so may result in a misdemeanor charge and may violate the Georgia State Student Code of Conduct.” Please follow the guidelines established by the BOR. See: <http://safety.gsu.edu/campus-carry/>

**Basic Needs Statement:** Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide resources that we may possess. The Embark program at GSU provides resources for students facing homelessness.

Health and Safety Advisement: Though face masks are not required at this time, in situations in which social distance cannot be maintained, face masks will be required. If there are class activities which require breaking social distance guidelines (minimum 6 ft. of separation) then face masks must be worn. GSU has made face masks available free of charge to students.

#### Course Details:

**About Your Grade:** Grades will be calculated based on points earned on the following assignments:

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>
<b>4 of 5 in-class Exams</b>	400 points (100 points each, <b>lowest dropped</b> )
<b>In-class participation &amp; assignments including “pop” participation assessments based on assigned reading &amp; lectures</b>	100 points
<b>Film Paper</b>	100 points
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE</b>	<b>600 points</b>

**\*There is NO EXTRA CREDIT outside of the Bonus Points described.** Plus/Minus grading will be used in this course.

#### **Grading Metric**

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
97 – 100%	A+	77 – 79%	C+
93 – 96%	A	73 – 76%	C
90 – 92%	A-	70 – 72%	C-
87 – 89%	B+	60 – 69%	D
83 – 86%	B	≤ 59%	F
80 – 82%	B-		

**\*Please note** that if you need to receive a grade of C to fulfill a departmental or university grade requirement, a grade of C- will NOT meet this requirement. This is a required course for some psychology majors, a C is required to pass for those students. A C or better is also required if this class fulfilling a minor in psychology.

If your graduation, funding, athletic participation, or other personal issues are dependent on a particular grade, you need to do everything you can to increase your grade every class period starting Day 1. Your instructor will not change grades to accommodate personal concerns or add bonus points at the last moment.

**Exams:** There will be 5 exams. **Your lowest exam score is dropped** (4 exams = 400 points total). It is wise to plan on taking all the exams and “save” the last drop in case you have an emergency. Given this policy, there will be no make-up exams or postponements. You can choose to not take the final exam if you have taken and are satisfied with your first 4 exams. Please see the course schedule for the breakdown for when each half of class attends the final exam period.

The exam format may include multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and short answer type questions. Exams will be administered on paper in class covering material in the prior weeks since the last exam. The instructor will retain exams. Some of the material is cumulative, so material on one exam is needed again to perform well on later exams. If you are unsure about questions you missed, please come to my office hours. You may not take exams home or take any photos of questions on the test itself. During exams, please turn all electronics completely off. Making or receiving phone calls or texts, or taking pictures during an exam is strictly prohibited. The student’s answers on the exam are the only answers used to calculate one’s grade.

**Assignments and Class Participation:** As stated earlier in this syllabus under the Course Description, it is VITAL that students review posted content online before coming to class and come prepared to participate in class discussing that material. At the start of each class, students will have to submit written questions or comments on the material they read/watched to the instructor which will be collected and awarded points as a measure of attendance as well as participation in class. These questions/comments will be used to help inform discussion on the reviewed content. As such, attending each class meeting will be worth points toward the 100 total points available for assignments and class participation over the semester. In addition to the weekly submission of these questions/comments there will be a few “pop” assignments throughout the semester consisting of small in-class writing or participation activities that will be assigned points. These “pop” assignments are intended to assess participation in class as well as encourage critical thinking and understanding of material. These “pop” assignments will not be announced ahead of time. Additional information on these specific “pop” assignments will be announced in-class on the day of.

Students who have an excused absence will be provided the opportunity to make-up in-class participation and attendance points. These will consist of submitting equivalent assignments online in a timely fashion after the missed class period. If you are planning on missing a class meeting please reach out to the instructor before the missed class to receive assignment

instructions. In the case of sudden illness, assignments may be submitted after the missed class meeting. Please make sure to contact the instructor immediately after any missed classes.

**Film Paper:** This assignment asks you to pick and watch one of four specified movies. You will be asked to identify at least 3 concepts from the course that you can apply to aspects of the movie you pick to watch and discuss. Further instructions including the grading rubric for this assignment will be provided in class and on iCollege. This assignment is worth **100 points** or the equivalent of one exam. This paper is an independent project and must be in your own words. Papers will have to be submitted online on iCollege via Turn-It-In, a plagiarism identifying software. Please speak with the Instructor BEFORE submitting your paper if you have any questions or need further clarity on the assignment. The paper assignment's due date is located in the Course Schedule below.

**Bonus points:** There are opportunities to collect bonus points in this class. Each exam will feature an additional "bonus" question intended to assess how well students have studied and covered material assigned online. Bonus questions will be worth 4 additional points added to the regular exam grade. If bonus points are earned on an exam that is later dropped (see Grade Policy above) then those points will be applied to the next lowest exam grade. As such, bonus points from 5 exams can potentially be disbursed across 4 exams if all 5 exams are taken. No other opportunities for bonus points will be given at any point during the semester and bonus questions, just like exams, cannot be made up.

Bonus Assignment	Points Possible
Bonus question each exam	4 points
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE</b>	<b>20 points (out of maximum 5 exams)</b>

**Attendance Policy:** Class activities will be used to monitor attendance. If you do not come to class, you will not be able to earn the attendance/activity points. Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for class. On exam days, after the first person has left the classroom, no one else will be allowed to enter the room, so please arrive on time. Exams will be administered at the start of respective class periods. Please let me know at least one week in advance if you are anticipating barriers to attending class on time. Traffic is not a valid excuse for missing or being late for an exam. Given we will only have the opportunity to meet once per week, it is VITAL that you attend class each week to understand the material and earn participation/assignment points.

**Veterans' Attendance:** The Department of Veterans Affairs requires that institutions of higher learning immediately report to them when a student discontinues attendance. Veterans who are receiving benefits to fund their education will be reported to the DVA if they do not attend class for a period of two weeks or more.

**Make-Up Policy and Late Work:** Make-up and late work are not allowed in this class. There will not be opportunities to make-up participation/assignment points after failing to attend class. The lowest exam grade is dropped to accommodate true emergencies throughout the semester.

True emergencies are unpredictable; therefore, it is suggested that you plan to take every exam. Class activity assignments are due before you leave class.

**Retention of materials:** When materials are returned to the student, it is the student's responsibility to keep these materials for future review or discussion with the instructor.

**Student Evaluation of the Course:** Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

### **Behavior Expectations:**

**Privacy:** The information discussed in this class is inextricably connected to our personal lives as we all have experience in varying forms of relationships, from family to the classroom setting. Please only divulge personal information that you are comfortable sharing in a public forum; however, everyone is expected to honor their classmates' privacy by not repeating others' personal details outside of the classroom. You are welcome to share YOUR feelings/thoughts/reactions to the class material outside of class, but please give the same courtesy you would want from others. That being said, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, so please be mindful of the information you choose to share.

Due to the personal nature of this course, you may experience some distress or discomfort talking about course related topics. If this happens, please feel free to call the GSU Counseling Center at **404-413-1641** ([www.gsu.edu/counseling](http://www.gsu.edu/counseling)) for short-term and free counseling, or the GSU Psychology Clinic at **404-413-6229** ([psychologuclinic.gsu.edu](http://psychologuclinic.gsu.edu)) for long-term, low-cost psychotherapy.

**Sensitivity and Respect:** Relationships are influenced by individual, familial, and sociocultural differences; thus, it is not expected that we all agree on the ideas discussed in this class. Your instructor will encourage **respectful** dialogue to increase our awareness and understanding of relationship differences. Emotional safety in our discussions is a class norm to which it is expected all of us to collaboratively monitor. Unintentional expressions of stereotyping or insensitivity are expected and will be addressed as needed. If during the semester, you are uncomfortable with something that was said in class, individual conversations are welcome to discuss your experience and your instructor will make every effort to address the problem and create an emotionally safe classroom environment for everyone.

### **Course Schedule:**

*Note: Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and posted as announcements on iCollege.*

Date	Schedule	Readings prior to class
Week 1		
M 1/13 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	Intro to course/Syllabus, Building Blocks of Relationships	Syllabus, Lecture 1, Chapter 1
W 1/15 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		

Week 2		
M 1/20 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	NO class, <b>MLK DAY</b>	Lecture 2, Ch. 3
W 1/22 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 3		
M 1/27 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	Attraction, Social Cognition	Lecture 3, Ch. 4
W 1/29 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 4		
M 2/3 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	<b>Exam 1</b>	
W 2/5 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 5		
M 2/10 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	Communication, Awareness Wheel	Lecture 4, Chapter 5 Awareness wheel handout
W 2/12 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 6		
M 2/17 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	Listening Cycle	Lecture 5, Listening Cycle handout, Additional Reading A
W 2/19 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 7		
M 2/24 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	<b>Exam 2</b>	
W 2/26 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 8		
M 3/2 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	Interdependence <b>MID-TERM EVALS DUE! Please complete on iCollege Semester Midpoint is 3/3, *Last Day to Withdraw*</b>	Lecture 6, Ch.6, Additional Reading B
W 3/4 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 9		
M 3/9 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	Love and attachment, Sexuality	Lecture 7, Ch.s 8 & 9
W 3/11 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 10		
M 3/16	<b>NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK!</b>	
W 3/18		
Week 11		
M 3/23 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	<b>Exam 3</b>	

W 3/25 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 12		
M 3/30 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	Stresses and strains	Lecture 8, Ch. 10
W 4/1 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 13		
M 4/6 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	Conflict, Problem Solving	Lecture 9, Problem solving handout, Ch. 11
W 4/8 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 14		
M 4/13 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	<b>Exam 4</b> <b>Film paper due Sunday 4/19 by 11:59pm</b>	
W 4/15 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 15		
M 4/20 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	Power & Violence, Dissolution & Loss, Maintaining & Repairing Relationships	Lecture 10, Lecture 11, Ch.s 12, 13, 14
W 4/22 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)		
Week 16		
M 4/27 <b>Last day of classes</b>	No class, exam review if necessary by appointment, Film paper feedback	Review for Exam 5
M 5/4 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	<b>Exam 5: 4:15-5:15pm</b>	
M 5/4 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)	<b>Exam 5: 5:30-6:30pm</b>	