Course Title: Intimate Relationships  
Course: COUN 242/WGS 295/PSYX 295  
Schedule: Tuesdays 9:40 – 11:00 am; Thursdays 9:40 – 10:30  
Location: Phyllis J. Washington College of Education Building, Room 123  
Semester: Autumn 2012  

Instructor: Sidney L. Shaw, MA, LCPC  
Office Location: Education Building, 109-D  
Office Hours: Fridays 11:00 – 3:00 or by appointment  
Email: sidney.shaw@mso.umt.edu  

TA: Mark Dadmun  
Office Location: (PJWCoEHS 109-D)  

Course Description:  
This course covers the fascinating, multi-faceted world of intimate relationships and explores the topic from empirical and theoretical perspectives. The examination of intimate relationships in this course will look at the subject through cultural, biological, social and developmental lenses and will explore specific topics such as attraction, communication, friendship, sexuality, love, conflict, power and violence, loss, social cognition, and repairing relationships.


Course Objectives:  
- Develop an understanding of the empirical and theoretical study of intimate relationships, research methods involved in this field of study, the strengths and limits of research and theory, and research findings on intimacy.  
- Gain knowledge and understanding of cultural, biological, and evolutionary perspectives of intimacy.  
- Increase understanding of your personal view of intimate relationships, factors that inform this view, and how it may be similar to or different from societal views of the present and/or past.  
- Increase awareness of cultural differences regarding intimate relationships and the implications of these differences on the individual and society.

Course Format:  
- Lecture/Guest Lecture  
- Small group activities  
- Video presentations  
- Exams  
- Lab
Expectations:
Attending classes is expected and in order to obtain the grade you want (unless you want a poor grade) consistent attendance is necessary. There will frequently be information presented in lectures that is not in your text and this material will appear on tests. The class content, Intimate Relationships, covers what are likely sensitive topics to some people and participation in discussion of these topics is encouraged. However, given the large size and open forum nature of the class, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in class. Therefore, using good judgment is encouraged if/when students share personal information related to subject matter in class. There is no expectation for you to share your personal experiences with other students in the class related to intimate relationships. Information you share in written assignments that are turned into the instructor or teaching assistant will be confidential from other students in the course.

Student Conduct:
Students are expected to be respectful of fellow students and the class in general. All students should be familiar with and follow the University of Montana conduct code found at: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php
Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary action by the University.
All cell phones are expected to be turned off during class time. Furthermore, the use of a cell phone or similar technological device during a test or quiz is grounds for investigation of academic dishonesty.

Incompletes:
University policy regarding “incompletes” do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted.

Disabilities and Special Learning Needs: It is your responsibility to inform your instructor, at the outset of this course, of any disability and the ways that you and the DSS have determined are necessary to accommodate your needs. Their office is in the Lommasson Center 154 and online at http://life.umt.edu/dss

Announcements:
Students are responsible for any announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements.

Add/Drop: Please note that you must drop this class or change your grading option before the add/drop deadline (see academic calendar for date). After this date, petitions will be approved only in the case of documentable emergencies.

Pass/No Pass: For students taking this course P/NP, a P is a grade of A, B, or C. A NP is a grade of D or F.

Make-Up Policy:
To make up a missed exam, you must meet the following criteria:
- You must have legitimate documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Examples of documented circumstances that may merit approval include the following: illness or accident, death or family emergency, University-sanctioned activity. Remember, notification and documentation are mandatory.
  - There are no make-up opportunities for in-class assignments.

**Grading Procedures and Course Assignments:**
Student evaluations (or grades) are based on in-class assignments, exams, a paper, and completion of the lab requirements.

A = 93-100%;   A- = 90-92%;   B+ = 87-89%;   B = 83-86%;   B- = 80-82%;
C+ = 77-79%;   C = 73-77%;   C- = 70-72%;   D+ = 67-69%;   D = 63-66%;
D- = 60-62%;   F = Below 60%

There are a total of **500 points** for this class (See “Assignments” section of syllabus).

**Exams:**
All exams will be multiple-choice. You will need to bring an NCS Scantron Sheet 50/50 form No. 95142 and a #2 pencil to each exam. Scantron forms can be purchased at the UC Bookstore or the Think Tank for 15 cents. Be on time for exams because no student will be allowed to start once another student has completed the exam and left the room.

**What can I expect on the exams?**
Lectures will follow the chapters in the book but will potentially contain extra material presented in class that is not in the book. Exam questions will include material from the text and material covered in lecture, whether it was in the text or not. Therefore, it is important for you to both read the text and attend lectures.

**Assignments:**

1. **Intimacy Paper (1 and 2)**
   Your first assignment is to write a 1-page paper describing your definition of intimacy. This is intended to be your definition uninformed from readings. This is an in-class assignment on the first day of class. At the end of the semester you will write another definition of intimacy. The second definition should be 1 page, typed, and double spaced, and is due on December 6th. (**100 points**) (**50 points each**)
   For the second assignment, no papers will be accepted after December 6th.

2. **Quizzes**
   There will be short, in-class quizzes 10 times during the semester. The content of the quizzes will be related to readings due at that time in class. These assignments are to encourage personal reflection on class content, evaluate understanding of content, and they also serve to monitor attendance. (**60 points, 6 points each**).

3. **Exams**
   There will be 3 exams total for the course that will consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching questions, and short answer questions. Content of exams will include readings and any material covered in class. You are expected to take the exams at scheduled times; however things happen and if you have an emergency that causes you to miss a scheduled exam you have one week to reschedule. You are expected to notify us immediately if an emergency prevents you from attending an exam. After one week you will be able to take the exam but will lose 10 points
off of the exam. You will lose 5 points for every week thereafter. (exams are 60 points each, 180 total).

4. Experiential Lab (160 points).
This course includes an experiential component consisting of four options. You can list your first and second choice of lab options (form will be provided), and we will do our best to accommodate your choice, but cannot promise first choices.

a. Individual counseling/consultation lab – This Lab requires that you attend 8 individual counseling/consultation sessions with a Counselor Education graduate student. The sessions will be 50 minutes each and you will need to attend all 8 sessions to receive credit for this assignment. The student counselor will not inform me or the teaching assistant of the content of your sessions. These sessions are an opportunity for you to explore the content of the course as it relates to your personal life and the sessions will be focused on intimate relationships. Your student counselor will sign a verification slip indicating that you have completed the lab requirements and I must receive this verification slip signed by you and your counselor no later than November 27th in order for you to receive credit.

b. Small group relationship lab - The small group Lab will focus on relationship skills and group discussion of relationship topics led by at least one Counselor Education graduate student. The small group lab consists of 6 sessions. If an emergency occurs and you miss a lab, there will be a make-up assignment for the lab that includes writing a paper and viewing a video on the content of the lab missed. Your student counselor will sign a verification slip indicating that you have completed the lab requirements and I must receive this verification slip signed by you and your counselor no later than November 27th in order for you to receive credit. I will explain in class the scheduling process for individual/group labs.

c. Community volunteer hours – This Lab requires that you spend 20 hours volunteering at either the YWCA or SARC. Further explanation of this lab will be provided.

d. Writing Assignment – This option requires that the student explore relationship history, challenges, hopes, etc. by writing five 2-3 page reflection papers. I will read your reflection papers, make some comments and return them to you. These papers should be typed, double spaced, and clearly articulated. I will be looking for the thought you put into your writing, and that you really reflect on your experiences in relationships. The topics that you choose to write about could come from topics discussed in class that you found meaningful, or could simply be a reflection of what you have learned so far in class as it applies to your own life. Because this is an assignment that requires you to reflect on your learning and personal experiences, there is some latitude for when you turn in the five papers, however, I will not accept all five near the end of the semester. (**You must turn in 3 of the 5 papers by Nov. 15th to receive credit for this assignment). You will be held responsible for turning in the papers sporadically throughout the semester. No papers will be accepted after December 6th and all papers must be completed to receive credit. There is no partial credit for turning in a few, but not all, of these papers.
5. **Extra Credit (15 points).**
There will be one opportunity to receive extra credit. Surveys of varying content will be administered the first week of the semester and again toward the end of the semester. These surveys are for research purposes and will take less than 20 minutes to complete. There will not be a penalty if a student chooses not to participate; however, BOTH surveys (pre-test and post-test) will need to be completed to receive credit. Further explanation of this process will be provided in class.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

*Note: Assigned Readings should be read before the class date for which they are listed.*

**The course schedule of assignments may change as needed and these changes will be announced in class**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic of the Day</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1:</strong></td>
<td>Aug. 28 Introduction to course. Review syllabus. Overview of expectations and class assignments.</td>
<td><strong>Definition of Intimacy Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>The Building Blocks of Relationships</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2:</strong></td>
<td>Sep. 4 The Building Blocks of Relationships</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 6</td>
<td>Attraction</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3:</strong></td>
<td>Sep. 11 Attraction</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 13</td>
<td>Social Cognition</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4:</strong></td>
<td>Sep. 18 Social Cognition</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 20</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5:</strong></td>
<td>Sep. 25 Communication</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 27</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 1, 3, 4, 5</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6:</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 2 Interdependency</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Interdependency</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7:</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 9 Friendship</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Friendship</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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<td><strong>Week 8:</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 16 Love</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
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<td>Week 9: Oct. 23</td>
<td>Sexuality</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Sexuality</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<td><strong>Week 11: Oct. 30</strong></td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9</td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Stress and Strains</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
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<td><strong>Week 12: Nov. 6</strong></td>
<td>Election Day/No Class</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Stress and Strains</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 13: Nov. 13</strong></td>
<td>Conflict</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Conflict</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 14: Nov. 20</strong></td>
<td>Power and Violence</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
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<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Student Travel Day/No Classes</td>
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<td><strong>Week 15: Nov. 27</strong></td>
<td>Power and Violence</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
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<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Signed Lab Verification Forms Due</td>
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<td><strong>Week 16: Dec. 4</strong></td>
<td>Maintaining and Repairing Relationships</td>
<td>Ch. 14 (Experiential Assignment Deadline) (2nd Intimacy Paper Deadline)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Maintaining and Repairing Relationships</td>
<td>Ch. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam Week Dec. 12 10:10 – 12:00</strong></td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14</td>
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Individual/ Group Lab Verification Form

Name of Student_________________________________________

Name of Counselor_______________________________________

Date__________________________________________

By signing below, I am indicating that I have attended ____ sessions of counseling/consultation with a Counselor Education Counselor or individual counselor. **In order to receive full credit, you must attend 6 sessions for group or 8 session for individual counseling.**

_________________________________________
Student Signature

_________________________________________
Counselor Signature

***This form must be signed by both student and counselor and turned in to Sidney no later than November 27th, 2012. This form is the only evidence that you have completed the consultation requirement and is necessary to earn credit for the assignment***
Individual/Group Lab

1. Have personal goals that you can bring to the counseling/consultation sessions. Because this counseling option is available via the Intimate Relationships course, focus on addressing issues related to your personal relationship with friends, partners, significant others, family, etc.

e. Expectations:
   a. If you show up more than 15 minutes late you are considered **absent** for that meeting.
   b. Call for cancellation/reschedule 24 hours in advance if you can’t make a session for a legitimate reason. **Three cancellations will result in you losing credit for this assignment.**
   c. **Failure to attend twice without calling will result in you losing credit for this assignment.**

*Details of location of the Lab will be provided by your individual counselor or in-class for the group Lab.*