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| HDFS 3313-701: Interpersonal RelationshipsFall 2025 |

## **Instructor**

Dr. Julie Leventhal, CFLE

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**Office:** Sage 310-C

**Office Phone:** (940) 565-2255

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays from 3:30 – 4:30 pm & by appointment.

**Class Meeting Time:** Monday & Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:20 pm

**Class Meeting Place:** Language 215

## **Required Textbook**

There is no required textbook for this section of this class. All required readings will be provided on Canvas for you.

## **Course Description**

The study of interpersonal relationships in a variety of contexts, such as parent-child relationships, romantic relationships and peer relationships.

## **Course Objective**

The overall objective of the course is to develop students’ understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of issues which influences relationships and individual well-being as they appear in social interactions and setting. After completing this course, students will be able to:

* Recognize stabilizing and destabilizing behavior patterns related to relationship longevity and health.
* Identify sources of stress and support in relationships.
* Explain and discuss how aspects of individual development influence personal interactions.
* Compare and contrast the effectives and utility of different strategies for developing and maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships.
* Describe how social contexts influence interpersonal relationships.
* Evaluate information about relationships and families present in popular culture and media sources as well as the implications for relationship development, expectations, and functioning.

## **Course Requirements**

1. Students are expected to attend class as scheduled. If you think you will need to miss a lot of classes or you are just not interested in attending class, it is suggested that you drop this class as soon as possible. Material for the exams will be both from the material in the book as well as any material covered in class.
2. Students are expected to keep up with the readings and participate in class; the required course readings will be posted on [Canvas](https://unt.instructure.com/). Furthermore, if you do not regularly check Canvas, you will miss important information such as time-sensitive announcements.
3. **In-Class Assignments:** During the semester, 10 short written assignments will be completed during class. These assignments will not be announced in advance and you must be in class to complete them; no make-up opportunities will be available unless there is an excused absence. In-class assignments will be worth **12%** of your final grade.

1. **Outside Activities:** Throughout the semester, 5 activities (out of 8) outside the classroom will be completed. You may complete more than 5 but only your top 5 grades will count towards your final grade. These activities will require you to reflect on your interactions and beliefs about a variety of relationships. The instructions for each assignment will be posted on Canvas. These activities are due at multiple dates during the semester. Individual grades from each completed activity will be added together (20 points for each activity) and that total is worth **15%** of your final grade; no late papers will be accepted.
2. **Relationship Interviews:** Choose two individuals (one within the family, one outside of the family) to interview that you share a close relationship with. More information and a grading rubric will be posted on Canvas. The relationship interviews are due on **Monday, September 22nd**. The relationship interviews are worth **15%** of your final grade; no late papers will be accepted.
3. **Movie Analysis:** Students will select and review two films which primarily focus on a specific type of relationship, such as parent-child, romantic, peer, etc. Then, using theory presented in class, students will analyze how the relationships in each film are depicted. More information and a grading rubric will be posted on Canvas. The movie analysis is due on **Wednesday, November 19th.** The movie analysis is worth **15%** of your final grade; no late papers will be accepted.
4. **Relationship Zine:** Each student will select a(n) issue/concept/challenge within relationships and engage in the creative storytelling of that topic through the creation of their own zine in three parts: Topic Selection (due **Wednesday, September 3rd**) and Zine Reflection (due **Wednesday, November 5th;** worth a combined **4%** of your final grade) and the actual Zine (worth **15%** of your final grade; due **Monday, October 27th**). More information will be posted on Canvas; no late submissions will be accepted.
5. Two tests will be given throughout the semester (see the dates on the schedule). Each exam will be worth **12%** of your final grade. Tests may include a variety of question types including all or some of the following: multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blanks, and short answer/essay. Legitimate reasons for missing an exam include medical, judicial, or serious personal events that truly do not allow you to take the exam. If you miss an exam, you will be asked to provide documentation to support the reason for your absence. The makeup exam may be different from the original exam given in class and may include different question types. **The final exam is on Monday, December 8th from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.** Make-ups for the final exam will only be given in case of emergency and with prior notice.

Success in this course on all the aforementioned requirements is your choice! If you choose to be successful, I will be happy to help you. If you do not choose to be successful, I will honor your choice. Every student has the potential to succeed in this class.

## **Course Evaluation**

In short, final grades will be based on the following:

The following grading scale will be used:

89.5-100% A  
79.5-89.4% B

69.5-79.4% C

59.5-69.4% D

Below 59.4% F

In-Class Assignments 12%

Outside Activities 15%

Relationship Interviews 15%

Movie Analysis 15%

Relationship Zine 15%

Zine Topic Selection & Reflection 4%

Midterm 12%

## Final Exam 12%

Total 100%

## **Academic Integrity and Professional Conduct**

It is expected that students will conform to the University of North Texas Code of Student Conduct and Discipline as outlined in the undergraduate catalog and online through the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam and possible grade consequences for the class; a second offense may result in an automatic “F” for the course. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act

designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Students are also expected to conduct themselves as mature and responsible adults while enrolled in this course. This includes displaying respect for peers and faculty, accepting personal responsibility for coming to class, maintaining class notes, and completing given assignments.

## **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional

forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom

and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found through the [UNT Division of Student Affairs](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students).

## **Access to Information – Eagle Connect**

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs through your [my.unt.edu](http://www.my.unt.edu) account. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the [website that explains Eagle Connect](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/) and how to forward your e‐mail.

## **ADA Statement**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding

your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information visit the [Office of Disability Access website](http://disability.unt.edu)[.](http://disability.unt.edu/) You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565‐4323.

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| HDFS 3313-701: Interpersonal Relationships (Topics and dates are subject to change) | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading** | **Assignment due** |
| August 18 | Introduction to the Course | Syllabus |  |
| August 20 | Understanding Relationships | Erber & Erber (2018; Ch. 1) |  |
| August 25 | Theories and Intimate Relationships | Koerner (2018) |  |
| August 27 | Communication | Finkenauer et al. (2018) | Activity |
| September 1 | *No Class- Labor Day* |  |  |
| September 3 | Communication | Knapp et al. (2020; Ch. 1) | **Zine Topic** |
| September 8 | Attachment | Erber and Erber (2018; p. 121-127)  Duck (2007; p. 40-47) |  |
| September 10 | Peer Relationships/Friendships | Madsen & Collins (2018; p. 135-139)  Fehr (1999) | Activity |
| September 15 | Familial Relationships | Parker & Mayock (2019) |  |
| September 17 | Familial Relationships |  |  |
| September 22 | *Relationship Interview Work Day* |  | **Relationship Interviews** |
| September 24 | Romantic Relationships | Lee (1988; p. 38-55)  Hendrick (2004; p. 78-92) |  |
| September 29 | Interpersonal Needs | Baumeister & Leary (1995) | Activity |
| October 1 | Coming Together + Movie | Knapp et al. (2020; p. 34-54) |  |
| October 6 | Coming Apart + Movie |  |  |
| October 8 | **Midterm** |  | **Midterm** |

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| HDFS 3313-701: Interpersonal Relationships (Topics and dates are subject to change) | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading** | **Assignment due** |
| October 13 | *Relationship Zine Work Day* |  |  |
| October 15 | Fundamental Forces Driving Interaction | Boyes & Fletcher (2007) | Activity |
| October 20 | Interaction Rituals | Kleinke et al. (1986) |  |
| October 22 | Interaction Rituals | Knapp et al. (2020; p. 214-223) |  |
| October 27 | Power and Control | Miller (2015; p. 365-380) | **Completed Zine** |
| October 29 | Power and Control | Bermea & van Eden-Moorefield (2024) |  |
| November 3 | Conflict Across Relationships | Erber & Erber (2018; p. 217-231) |  |
| November 5 | *No Class - NCHC* |  | **Zine Reflection** |
| November 10 | Conflict Across Relationships |  | Activity |
| November 12 | Maintaining Relationships | Levine & Knapp (2018) |  |
| November 17 | Maintaining Relationships | Ogolsky & Monk (2018) |  |
| November 19 | Repairing Relationships | Baucom et al. (2018)  Stanley et al. (2020) | **Movie Analysis** |
| November 24, 26 | *No Class- Thanksgiving Break!* |  |  |
| December 1 | The Dissolution of Relationships | Vangelisti (2006)  Erber & Erber (2011; p. 262-268) | Activity |
| December 3 | Building Better Relationships | Knapp et al. (2020; Ch. 12) |  |
| December 8 | **Final Exam – 1:30 – 3:30 pm**  *(please note the earlier time due to the official final exam schedule)* | | **Final Exam** |

**Syllabus Addendum**

The following are important tips/guidelines/requirements that will ensure your success in this class:

1. DO read the syllabus and the assignment guidelines carefully. I do my best to lay everything out for you all in those documents. If you read and follow them carefully, you will successfully complete all the major requirements for the course. Everything you ever needed to know about the class (i.e., course schedule, my office hours, my office location) is provided in the syllabus. All the information you need regarding how to submit your papers is provided to you in each of the assignment documents.
2. If you ever have any questions about anything in the assignment guidelines or other course documents, ASK! I want to help you do well in this class and providing clarification to you all is one way for me to do that.
3. **DO check your UNT email and Canvas. I will send class emails to your UNT account and post announcements to Canvas so you either need to access that email account regularly or forward your email to another account that you use. You will miss extremely important information if you do not check the emails I send.**
4. At the end of the semester, do NOT ask me to change your grade. That would be unethical and unfair to every student that has earned his/her given grade.
5. Deadlines are deadlines for a reason. I will NOT accept late papers and your paper will be considered late the first minute after the given deadline has passed. For example, if the deadline is 11:59 pm, you will not be able to submit your paper at 12:15 am because 1) the system will not let you and 2) I will NOT accept it.
6. Submit your papers in a WORD DOCUMENT (make sure it is a .doc, .docx, or .rtf format so that I can actually open it). If I cannot open your paper, I cannot grade it. I can open documents on both a PC and a Mac but please make sure it pops up in the right format either way.
7. If points are deducted from an assignment, I will provide feedback to you through the assignment dropbox. When I do this, LOOK AT THE FEEDBACK on why you received that specific grade and do that before asking me what you did wrong. If I deducted points, I will tell you why. Use that feedback to make improvements on future assignments so that you do not get points counted off again for a similar mistake.
8. **DO NOT WHISPER TALK IN CLASS. We can all hear you. Even if you think you’re whispering and we cannot hear you, we can. Seriously. This disrupts the learning environment.**
9. See the announcement on Canvas for a few more important points related to organization and professional development (i.e., the Addendum to the Addendum)!