

Study Guide for Intimate Relationships

Students have asked me to give them some suggestions of what to focus on when reading the text. I suggest that you read this guide before you read each chapter. It tells you what to look for and what I might ask on the examination. Remember that Chapters 2, 9, 14, and 15 of the book are excluded. The study guide only includes the non-excluded chapters.

Chapter One

In the introductory lecture, I review the six ways in which intimate relationships differ from casual relationships. Note on page 10, the year that the divorce rate dramatically increased and recent decline in the divorce rate. The Hazan and Shaver attachment styles (Table 1.1) are discussed in the “Love” lecture. Why is homosexuality not emphasized in the text (see the box on page 31)? Know the following: sex ratio, sociometer, and the evolutionary theory explanation of why fathers are less invested in their children (paternity uncertainty).

Chapter Three

Much of this chapter overlaps with the class lecture on Attraction, Friendship, and Accuracy. Understand the physical cues that lead persons to be seen as attractive. Know the following: mere exposure, WHR, matching hypothesis, desirability equation (page 93), stimulus-value-role theory, and the “one” case when opposites attract (another is given is discussed in lecture).

Chapter Four

Some of this chapter overlaps with the class lecture on Attraction, Friendship, and Accuracy. What is the relationship between the length in the relationship with confidence and accuracy (see Figure 4.2 and remember the lecture)? Read Box 4.1 and relate it to the heuristics discussed by Cialdini. Know the following: confirmatory biases, positive illusions, romanticism, and partner legibility. I will not ask you about attributional biases or self-monitoring as that was discussed in Interpersonal Perception.

Chapter Five

Read about the famous study by Whitcher and Fisher done here at UConn. In lecture, many of the ineffective strategies in arguments are discussed: kitchen-sinking, drifting off-beam, mind reading, interrupting, yes-butting, cross complaining, stonewalling, and XYZ statements. The differences in nonverbal communication between

men and women are discussed in lecture. Know the following: visual dominance ratio (VDR), paralanguage, social penetration theory, and opener.

Chapter Six

Define the key concepts of interdependence theory and how they are related to one another (rewards, costs, outcomes, satisfaction, CL, CL_{alt}, dependence.) In Figure 6.1, know when a relationship can be unhappy but stable. List five reasons why outcomes and satisfaction in relationships decline overtime and compare this list to that given in lecture. Know the difference between communal versus exchange relationships. What is meant by “overbenefit”? Learn the three types of commitment and about accommodative behavior (and its downside).

Chapter Seven

Note the definition of friendship on pages 189-190. Have some understanding how friendship evolves across the lifespan from childhood to old age. Understand the gender differences in same-sex friendships. Understand how men's and women's relationships differ and are the same (also discussed in class). Know what N_{int} is.

Chapter Eight

Most of this chapter overlaps with the “Love” lecture. Carefully read this chapter as there will be many items on the test from the chapter. Know each of the following: Sternberg's triangular theory of love (discussed in class), companionate vs. passionate love (not discussed), and excitation transfer/misattribution (not discussed). Be able to define each of Lee's six colors of love but no need to memorize the six. Re-read the discussion of Hazan and Shaver typology of attachment in Chapter 1. Know Bartholomew's four styles of attachment. What is the consistency of attachment styles across time and partners? Note the differences between love marriages and arranged marriages in Figure 8.4.

Chapter Ten

What is the relationship between rejection-acceptance and self-esteem (see Figure 4.1)? Learn the differences between the two types of jealousy: reactive and suspicious. What are the most common lies told in close relationships?

Chapter Eleven

Be able to define each of the six types of resource power, especially referent power. Understand the process of power, both verbal and nonverbal. What is the “indirect style” of power (page 353). What is the major difference between power as studied in laboratory versus self-report (see Table 11.2)?

Chapter Twelve

What sorts of attributions during conflict lead to negative outcomes? Know what the demand/withdraw pattern is. Be able to identify the four categories of response to conflict – voice, loyalty, neglect, and exit – suggested by Rusbult (page 374). Be able to define the four types couples found in Gottman's research (page 375-376). Know what the Conflicts Tactic Scale is. What are the predictors of dating violence (page 385)? Why do people stay in violent relationships (page 387)?

Chapter Thirteen

What is the rate of divorce, the percentage of marriages that end in divorce, currently in the United States? Why did the divorce rate increase over the last 100 years or so in the United States (although remember from Chapter 1, the divorce rate is actually declining in the last decade or so)? Are the rates of separation higher in co-habiting and gay and lesbian couples (page 398)?

What are the predictors of divorce? What are the steps people take in separating? How do partners pass through them? What are the four types of divorced couples (page 388) and which type is the most common. What are the effects of divorce on the children?