



Wind Goodfriend Sample Class

Note to Instructors: December 2021

Each time I teach my undergrad relationships course, “Close Relationships,” I make modifications. Right up front, please note that I use my own textbook: *Intimate Relationships* published by SAGE. I was proud that the book won the 2021 Most Promising New Textbook of the Year award from the Textbook & Academic Authors Association when it came out. Still, I’m happy to share my course materials with anyone, including those who use a different book.

I teach at a very small (approx. 700 students) liberal arts college, and the course is 400-level. We teach a typical 15-week semester plus finals. My course is usually around 14 students, which allows for a lot of discussion. My course is centered on critical thinking and analysis. The book comes with application activities and critical thinking questions after each section of each chapter.

Below I mention specific materials I’m happy to share based on how I approach the course.

Textbook

I use the textbook I wrote and published with SAGE. So admittedly I’m biased – but if you use the same book, please email me at any time with questions, suggestions for changes, or anything else. The best way to keep improving the book is to hear from people who are using it. I am pansexual; I wrote the book with intentionality to explicitly include the LGBTQ+ population. Examples are gender-neutral pronouns when applicable, knowledge questions with same-sex couples, and discussion of research with LGBTQ+ participants as part of the regular book—not siloed off in “boxes” that emphasize differences instead of similarities.

Each chapter of the book has three “features”: “Research Deep Dive” in which methods and stats are emphasized (these brilliant additions were written by Gary Lewandowski), “What’s My Score?” in which students can take a self-report scale to better understand a given construct, and “Relationships and Popular Culture” in which media such as movies and TV shows are analyzed.

The chapters in the book include standard topics but also emphasize a theoretical approach (with separate chapters focused on Attachment, Interdependence/Investment Model, and Evolution). The chapters then follow a standard relationship arc, moving from friendship to attraction, sexuality, social cognition, communication, conflict, assault and violence, and relationships ending or enduring.

Syllabus

Self-explanatory; you can obviously ignore the institution-specific info. Here you can see the assignments and grading structure I use (although of course you’ll want to change these to fit your needs). I’ve moved away from exams in my 400-level courses and instead rely on discussion, critical thinking papers, and presentations in which they show they understand research articles.

PowerPoint Lectures

The textbook comes with standard lectures and an exam question bank. However, I find these clunky (I did not make them). The textbook slides are meant to be good for students who have accommodations, so that’s a big benefit. But, I make my own slides and I’m happy to share them.

Get in Touch

If you have questions or recommendations based on any of this, I’d love to hear from you: goodfriend@bv.edu.