Psychology 110

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Attraction and Love

Attraction and Love

I.   **What is Love?**

A. Sternberg's Triangular Theory

1. Intimacy: Feelings of closeness, connectedness, and bonding.

2. Passion: Drive that leads to romance, physical attraction and sex.

3. Decision/Commitment: The decision that one loves another and the commitment to maintain the love.

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I.   What is Love?

    B. Sternberg's Taxonomy of Possible Love Relationships

Type	Intimacy	Passion	Commitment
Non-love	No	No	No
Liking	**Yes**	No	No
Infatuated love	No	**Yes**	No
Empty love	No	No	**Yes**
Romantic love	**Yes**	**Yes**	No
Companionate love	**Yes**	No	**Yes**
Fatuous love	No	**Yes**	**Yes**
Consummate love	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**

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II. Why Do We Love Whom We Love?

A. The Big Three

    1. Proximity
    2. Similarity
    3. Familiarity
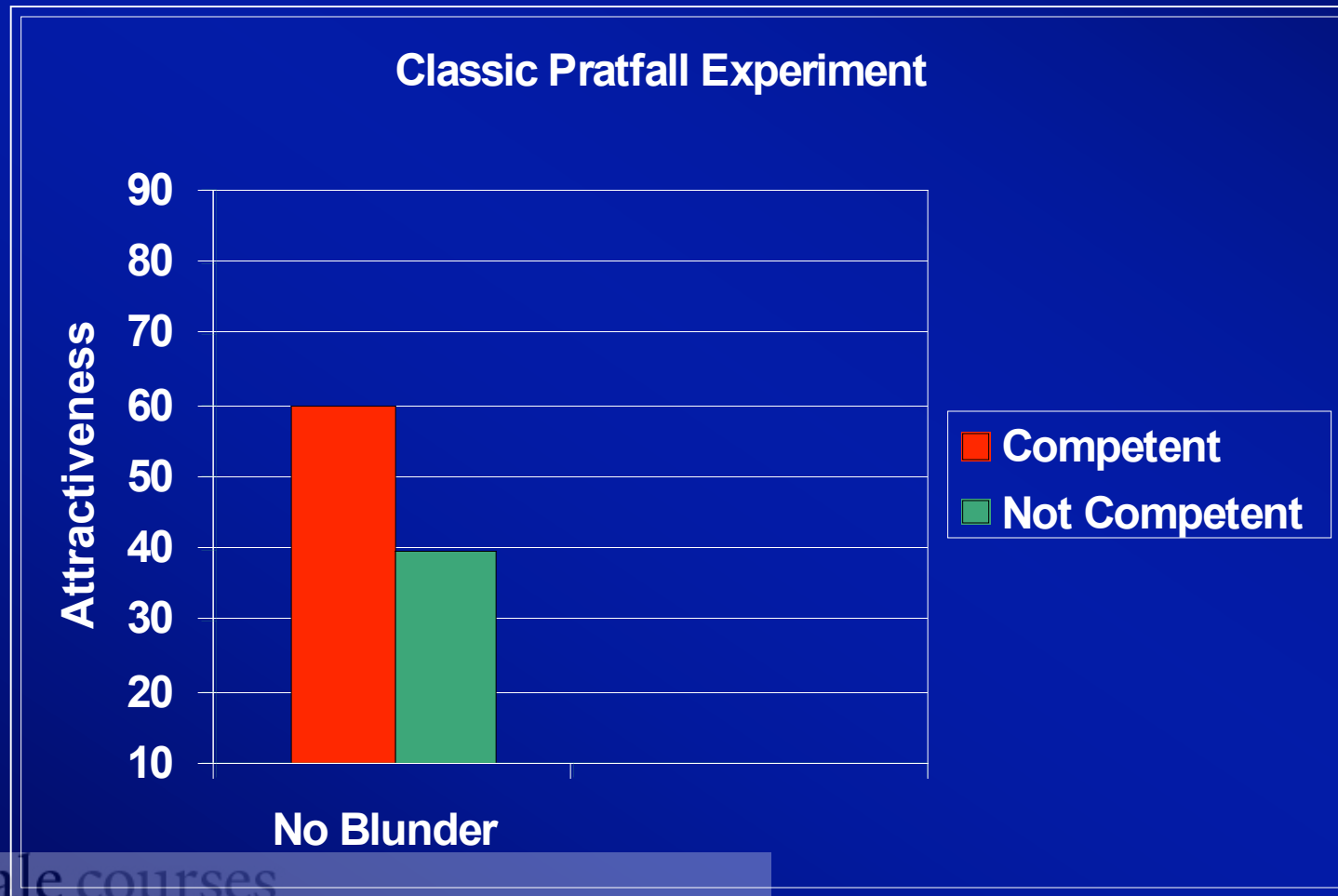
B. The More Interesting Four

    1. Competence
        (a) The pratfall effect
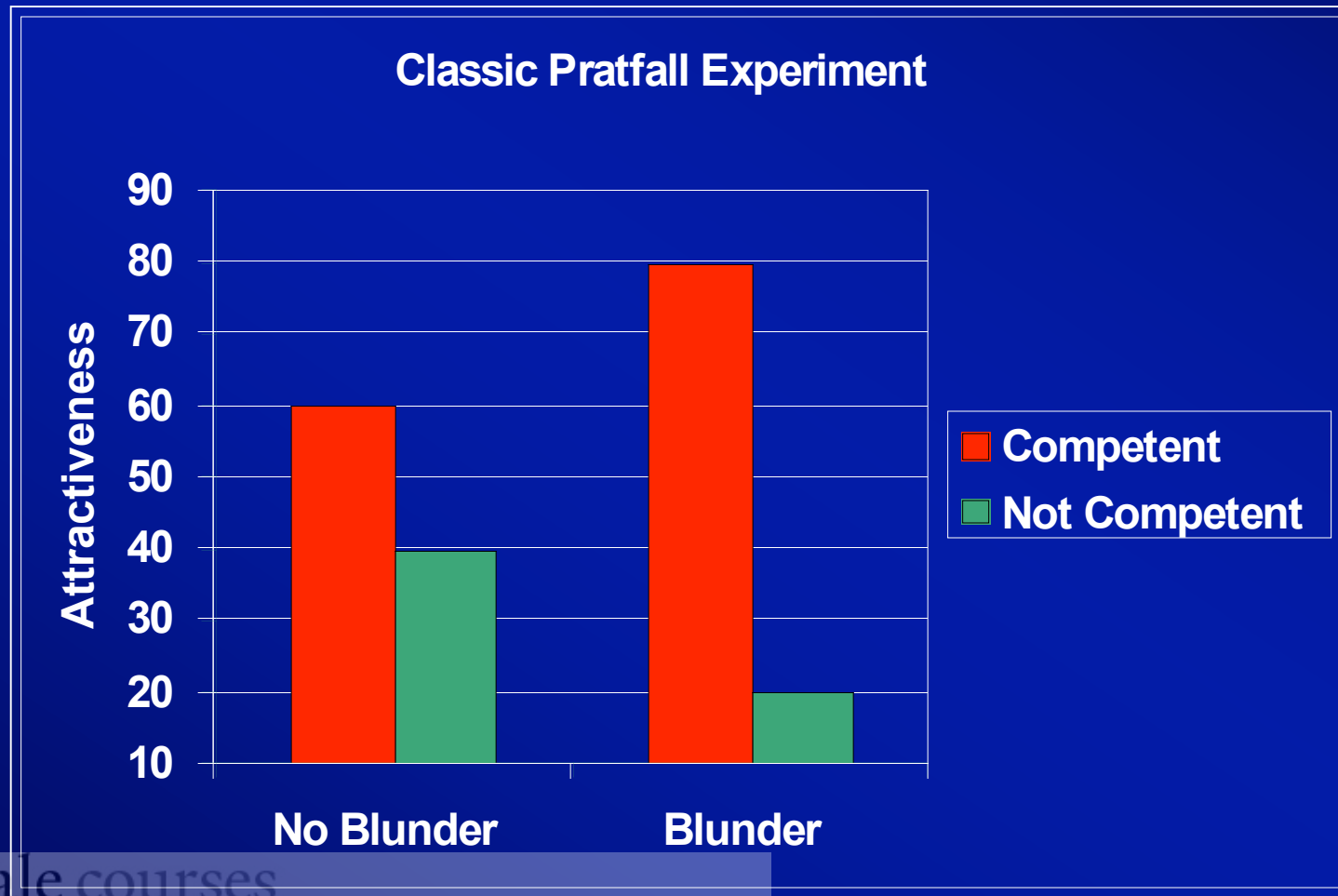   (b) The classic pratfall experiment

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Classic Pratfall Experiment

Bar chart with y-axis labeled "Attractiveness" ranging from 10 to 90. Legend: Competent (red), Not Competent (green). Under "No Blunder", the Competent bar reaches about 60 and the Not Competent bar reaches about 40.

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Classic Pratfall Experiment

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II.   Why Do We Love Whom We Love?

B. The More Interesting Four

     1. Competence
         (a) The pratfall effect
         (b) The classic pratfall experiment

     2. Physical attractiveness

         (a) Minnesota blind date computer dance
         (b) "Frizzy wig" experiment

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II.   Why Do We Love Whom We Love?

B. The More Interesting Four

   3. Gain-loss effect

   4. Misattribution of arousal

   (a) "Rickity bridge" experiment
   (b) "Painful shock" experiment
   (c) "Running-in-place" experiment
   (d) "Playboy centerfold" experiment