

**PSYC 345
WOST 345**

Psychology of Women

Spring, 2008

Instructor: Stacey B. Zaremba

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Office: Room 229 Hurd Academic Complex

Class time: Tuesday & Thursdays 5b (12:50 – 2:00)

Class room: TBA

Office Hours: Monday	9:00 – 10:00
Tuesday	9:00 – 10:00
Wednesday	9:00 – 10:00
Thursday	9:00 – 10:00
Friday	by appointment only.

If none of these times are convenient for you, other times may be arranged. Please feel free to call me to set up an appointment.

Course Description

This course has as its central focus an examination of the research on gender differences and female gender development from a variety of perspectives. Special emphasis will be placed on critical analysis of the assumptions about human nature and science that are embedded in our approaches to these issues. The approach will be interdisciplinary, with attention to biological, cognitive, behavioral, and social factors, which influence the emergence of an individual's gender. Topics include gender role development, achievement and motivation, women and their work, women of color, health issues, sexuality, adjustment, and victimization

Psychology of Women

Course Goals

1. To gain knowledge of the Psychology of Women, the history of this field, and

its contemporary state.

2. To understand the research processes and findings in this area.

3. To learn about the psychological experiences of women of diverse backgrounds.

4. To understand the feminist critiques of science in general, and psychology in particular.

Course Requirements

1. Discussion Leader:

Students will lead a class discussion (in small groups) on a pre-selected topic. You should present your topic in a way that is interactive with the class as a whole. The discussion leader dates and topics are listed below. Each discussion leader will be responsible for preparing a fact sheet (with a reference list) to be distributed on the day of your discussion. The fact sheet should contain all of the essential information about your topic as well as a reference list.

Since you are presenting in a group-- it is important to be well coordinated and non-overlapping. Your topic should be well defined and you should read beyond the assigned readings as you prepare for your role as discussion leader.

Each group member will receive an individual grade for their portion of the presentation, as well as written feedback from your classmates. Your grade will also reflect the quality of your fact sheet.

Course Requirements continued:

2. Response Journal:

Each student will keep a response journal during the semester. The journal should contain your responses to the weekly reading assignments as well as your thoughts and feelings about our class discussions and other aspects of the course. Your journals will be collected several times during the semester (Note: Collection dates are listed on the course schedule below). Date all of your entries!

You should write three journal entries a week starting in week two of the semester. Two of your entries should be based upon the readings and the other entry should be an open entry.

An open entry can include anything related to the topic of the Psychology of Women—reactions to the class discussions, thoughts about a current event, a personal experience, etc.

When discussing the readings, consider the following: do you agree/disagree with the author's view and why, are you surprised and why, does the material contradict other material you have read, are you delighted or disgusted by what you've read and why? (Of course, these are not the only questions you might think about!) Occasionally I will provide you with a journal question to help focus your responses to the readings in a particular way.

Course Requirements continued:

3. Psychology of Women Project:

There are two options that you may choose from for this project.

1. Write a research proposal for a study you might do as an independent study or honors thesis project in a future semester.
2. Do a service-learning project at an agency that serves exclusively or predominantly female clients, or deals with issues of particular relevance to women such as domestic violence. You will need to clock approximately two hours a week during the semester.

Research Proposal (Option 1)

1. Topic: You must inform me in writing about the topic you plan to study for your

research proposal, no later than January 29th. Your topic must be approved before you should proceed.

2. References: You will need to locate five key references for your proposal and have them approved by me by no later than February 26th. You must submit – the five articles and a one-page summary of each article.

3. Outline: A detailed outline of your paper (one to two pages, standard outline format with topics I, II, III, etc. and subtopics A, B, C, etc.) is due on March 25th. This outline should include all of the references you plan on using in the final proposal. You should have a minimum of ten references.

4. Oral Presentation: You will give a 10 minute power-point presentation to the class describing your research proposal on either April 10th or April 15th.

5. Final Proposal: The final research proposal is due on April 10th. The final proposal should be in APA format and approximately 10 pages in length.

Course Requirements continued:

Service Learning (Option 2)

1. Agency: You can work with either the YWCA of Bethlehem or Valley Youth House for your Service Learning project. Make contact with the community agency and obtain written verification from agency personnel that you have done so. If you are interested in working for another agency please discuss this with me. The agency name and written verification is due on or before January 29th.

2. Log: You must keep a Service Learning Log detailing your Service Learning experiences. Your logs should describe your service work and should integrate your experiences at the agency with the course content. You will submit your journal three times during the semester: February 7th, March 11th, and April 10th. Verification of your attendance at the agency should be turned in with each log.

3. Oral Presentation: You will give an oral presentation to class describing your activities at the agency on either April 10th or April 15th.

4. Class Participation

Your attentive presence and prepared participation in the classroom are important both for a successful course and for your successful completion of the course. It is assumed and expected that you will attend class, complete the readings in advance of class, and come prepared to participate actively and thoughtfully in class. You will receive a class participation grade for each and every class session. Students will help to determine their class participation grade by completing a class participation assessment form at the end of each class session.

Evaluation

Your grade will be based on the following items;

Discussion Leader	20%
Psychology of Women Project	30%
Response Journal	30%
Class Participation	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Policy on plagiarism:

Evidence of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the College policy on academic honesty.

Required Course Reading:

(C,G,& R) Chrisler, Joan, C, Golden, Carla, & Rozee, Patricia, D. (2008). Lectures on the psychology of women, 4th edition. McGraw Hill, New York.

(MWM) Matlin, Margaret,W. (2008). The Psychology of Women. 6th Edition. Thomson/Wadsworth.

(RR) Additional Readings will be distributed in class or placed on reserve in Reeves Library.

Psychology of Women Course Outline

Week 1 (1/15 & 1/17)

Organizational Meeting & Syllabus Review (1/15)

*Value Clarification Exercise and Introduction to
Psychology of Women (1/17)*

(MWM) Chapter 1

Week 2 (1/22 & 1/24)

Attend the Tunnel of Oppression (1/22)

*Feminism and Oppression
Reactions to the Tunnel of Oppression (1/24)*

(MWM) Chapter 1
(C, G, & R) Readings 1 & 2

Week 3 (1/29 & 1/31)

Sexist Bias in Research and Feminist Research Methods (1/29)

(MWM) Chapter 1

Research Proposal Topic or Agency Name Due (1/29)

Diversity of Women - Inequalities (1/31)

(C, G, & R) Readings 3, 13, & 17,

Response Journal Due 1/31 (4R/20)

Week 4 (2/5 & 2/7)

Representations of Women (2/5)

(Small group analysis: History, Religion, Language, and Media)

(MWM) Chapter 2
(C, G, & R) Reading 8

Stereotypes: Content, Complexities, and Consequences (2/7)

(MWM) Chapter 2

Service Learning Log Due (2/7)

Week 5 (2/12 & 2/14)

The Biology of Sex (2/12)

(MWM) Chapter 3
(C, G, & R) Reading 9

Gender Development and Gender Typing (2/14)

Student Discussion Leaders

(MWM) Chapter 3
(C, G, & R) Reading 6

Week 6 (2/19 & 2/21)

Puberty and Menstruation (2/19)

(MWM) Chapter 4
(C, G, & R) Reading 10

Week 6 continued

Love Relationships: Dating and Living Together (2/21)

Student Discussion Leaders

(MWM) Chapter 8

Response Journal Due 2/21 (6R/30)

Week 7 (2/26 & 2/28)

Psychology of Women Project Updates (2/26)

Research Proposal References Due (2/26)

Love Relationships: Single Women or Marriage (2/28)

Student Discussion Leaders

(MWM) Chapter 8

Week 8 (3/4 & 3/6)

Spring Recess

Week 9 (3/11 & 3/13)

Women's Sexual Response & Sexual Attitudes (3/11)

Student Discussion Leaders

(MWM) Chapter 9
(C, G, & R) Reading 14

Service learning Log Due (3/11)

Week 9 continued

Lesbians and Sexuality (3/13)

(MWM) Chapter 9 (and Lesbian section of Chapter 8)
(C, G, & R) Reading 15

Week 10 (3/18 & 3/20)

Violence Against Women: The Abuse of Women (3/18)

(MWM) Chapter 13
(C, G, & R) Reading 21 & 22

Attend the Jackson Katz Presentation and the
Take Back the Night (TBTN) March and Rally (3/19)

Response Journal Due 3/20 (4R/20)

Week 11 (3/25 & 3/27)

Processing the TBTN Rally and Katz presentation (3/25)

Research Proposal Outline Due (3/25)

Violence Against Women: Sexual Assault and Rape (3/27)

Student Discussion Leaders

(MWM) Chapter 13
(C, G, & R) Reading 20

Week 12 (4/1 & 4/3)

Pregnancy and Childbirth (4/1)

Student Discussion Leaders

(MWM) Chapter 10
(C, G, & R) Reading 11

Week 12 continued

Motherhood (4/3)

Student Discussion Leaders

(MWM) Chapter 10
(C, G, & R) Reading 5

Response Journal Due 4/3 (2R/20)

Week 13 (4/8 & 4/10)

Psychology of Women Project Consultations (4/8)

Psychology of Women Project Presentations (4/10)

Psychology of Women Project Final Papers Due (4/10)

Week 14 (4/15 & 4/17)

Psychology of Women Project Presentations (4/15)

Trustee Meeting (4/17) -

Week 15 (4/22 & 4/24)

Community Journal Discussion (4/22)

An Attempt at Closure and Evaluations (4/24)

Student Discussion Leader Topics and Schedule

Gender Development and Gender Typing (2/14)

Student Discussion Leaders:

Love Relationships: Dating and Living Together (2/21)

Student Discussion Leaders:

Love Relationships: Single Women or Marriage (2/28)

Student Discussion Leaders:

Women's Sexual Response & Sexual Attitudes (3/11)

Student Discussion Leaders:

Violence Against Women: Sexual Assault and Rape (3/127)

Student Discussion Leaders:

Pregnancy and Childbirth (4/1)

Student Discussion Leaders:

Motherhood (4/3)

Student Discussion Leaders: