

## PS 345

# *Psychology of Women*

Spring, 2009

Instructor: Stacey B. Zaremba

Office Phone (610) 861 -1563

Home Phone (610) 346 - 8321

Cell Phone (215) 534 -1317

Office: Room 229 Hurd Academic Complex

Class time: 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 an ACTivism-project.

#### **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 February 2. 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 23rd. 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 11th. 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, or 22<sup>nd</sup>.

5. Final Proposal: The final research proposal is due on April 15th. The final proposal should be in APA format and approximately 10 pages in length.

Course Requirements continued:

### **ACTivism Project (Option 2)**

You may complete the "Act" with other students. However, students must write their own papers and reactions.

1. Choose an issue related to the Psychology of Women that you feel strongly about and would like to study this semester. Inform me of your topic by February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
2. Read about the issue and identify previous activists.
3. Plan an "action".
4. In a 3-5 page paper summarize the issue and previous ACTivist's approaches to deal with the issue and include an ACTion plan. Plans need to include: time, place, people, the "act" and any possible problems. Due date February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
5. Complete the "ACT" by April 8<sup>th</sup> at the latest.
6. Present your "ACTivism" experience to the class on one of the following two dates (4/15, 4/20, or 4/22). Design and create a resource page on your topic to give to other students on the day of your presentation. This page can include suggested books, films, web pages, articles, community organizations.
7. You must also submit a reaction paper - including your reaction and the reaction of others to your "ACT" on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (1/19 & 1/21)*

*Organizational Meeting & Syllabus Review (1/19)*

*Value Clarification Exercise and Introduction to  
Psychology of Women (1/21)*

(MWM) Chapter 1

### **Week 2 (1/26 & 1/28)**

*Feminism, Privilege, and Oppression (1/26)*

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

*White Privilege Film (1/28)*

### **Week 3 (2/2 & 2/4)**

*Sexist Bias in Research and Feminist Research Methods (2/2)*

(MWM) Chapter 1

**Research Proposal/ACTivism Topic Due (2/2)**

*Diversity of Women - Inequalities (2/4)*

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

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

### **Week 4 (2/9 & 2/11)**

*Representations of Women (2/9)*

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

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

*Stereotypes: Content, Complexities, and Consequences (2/11)*

(MWM) Chapter 2

**Week 5 (2/16 & 2/18)**

*The Biology of Sex (2/16)*

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

*Gender Development and Gender Typing (2/18)*

Student Discussion Leaders

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

**Week 6 (2/23 & 2/25)**

*Puberty and Menstruation (2/23)*

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

**Research Proposal Article Summaries or ACTivism Project Plan Due (2/23)**

**Week 6 continued**

*Love Relationships: Dating and Living Together (2/25)*

Student Discussion Leaders

(MWM) Chapter 8

**Response Journal Due 2/25 (6R/30)**

**Week 7 (3/2 & 3/4)**

Spring Recess

**Week 8 (3/9 & 3/11)**

*Psychology of Women Project Updates (3/9)*

*Love Relationships: Single Women or Marriage (3/11)*

Student Discussion Leaders

(MWM) Chapter 8

**Research Proposal Outline Due (3/11)**

**Week 9 (3/16 & 3/18)**

*Women's Sexual Response & Sexual Attitudes (3/16)*

Student Discussion Leaders

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

**Week 9 Continued**

*Lesbians and Sexuality (3/18)*

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

**Week 10 (3/23 & 3/25)**

*Violence Against Women: The Abuse of Women (3/23)*

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



*Violence Against Women Across the Globe Film (3/25)*

**Response Journal Due 3/25 (4R/20)**

**Week 11 (3/30 & 4/1)**

*Violence Against Women: Sexual Assault and Rape (3/30)*

Student Discussion Leaders

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

Women's History Month – Timeline Reflections (4/1)

**Week 12 (4/6 & 4/8)**

*Pregnancy and Childbirth (4/6)*

Student Discussion Leaders

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

**Week 12 continued**

*Motherhood (4/8)*

Student Discussion Leaders

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

**Response Journal Due 4/8 (2R/20)**

**Last Day to complete your ACTivism Project**

**Week 13 (4/13 & 4/15)**

Recess – No Class (4/13)

*Psychology of Women Project Presentations (4/15)*

**Research Proposal Paper or ACTivism Response  
Paper Due (4/15)**

**Week 14 (4/20 & 4/22)**

*Psychology of Women Project Presentations (4/20- 4/22)*

**Week 15 (4/27 & 4/29)**

*Community Journal Discussion (4/27)*

*An Attempt at Closure and Evaluations (4/29)*

**Student Discussion Leader Topics and Schedule**

*Gender Development and Gender Typing*

Student Discussion Leaders:

*Love Relationships: Dating and Living Together*

Student Discussion Leaders:

*Love Relationships: Single Women or Marriage*

Student Discussion Leaders:

*Women's Sexual Response & Sexual Attitudes*

Student Discussion Leaders:

*Violence Against Women: Sexual Assault and Rape*

Student Discussion Leaders:

*Pregnancy and Childbirth*

Student Discussion Leaders:

*Motherhood*

Student Discussion Leaders: