

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, FACULTY OF HEALTH
YORK UNIVERSITY

COURSE: PSYC 3480 3.0-A PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN

TERM: FALL 2013

PREREQUISITES: AK/AS/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Vasanthi Valoo
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Secretary: Ms. Agnes Levstik, 416-736-5125 (Ext 55125)

TIME AND LOCATION: Thursdays: 8:30AM – 11:30AM
Location: CLH E
Course Duration: Sept 12, 2013 – Dec 5, 2013

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course involves formal lectures. Students will have an opportunity to participate in small group discussions to increase their understanding of how life experiences, values, and biases influence gender-role stereotypes, socialization practices, male-female differences, and the family. Given the likelihood that personal information will be disclosed in class, students are required to adhere strictly to rules of confidentiality. At all times, the interpretation offered is made with reference to the broader social context. The lectures may be supplemented by films and videos and invited guest/s.

Course Learning Objectives

1) *Purpose of the Course*

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to factors associated with the psychology of women, including how life experiences, values, and biases influence gender-role stereotypes, socialization practices, male-female differences, and the family.

2) *Specific Learning Objectives*

- To develop an understanding of issues relevant to the psychology of women.
- To investigate historical bases for gender inequalities.
- To critically examine research related to the psychology of women.
- To reflect on your role in facilitating change for women

COURSE TEXT

Matlin, M. W. (2012). *The Psychology of Women. (7th Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

EVALUATION

Reflection Papers	20%
Assignment	20%
Mid Term Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

PLEASE NOTE: Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles. The grade profile for this course is already high. Grades will NOT be rounded off or raised at the request of students.

*The last day to drop the course without receiving a final grade is **Nov 8, 2013.***

REFLECTION PAPERS – 20%

2 Reflection Papers Each Worth 5%:

You will write 2 reflection papers (maximum 2 pages). These papers will be based on an integration of key themes from the lectures and your personal experiences. You are responsible for checking Moodle for relevant topics.

Final Reflection Paper Worth 10%:

You will write one final reflection paper (maximum 5 pages) in question and answer format. This paper will consist of your reflections and responses to the following questions:

- a) What did I learn in this class that surprised me?
- b) What, if anything, has changed for me about my understanding of the psychology of women?
- c) Has anything that I learned inspired me to change anything in my life? My thinking? My interactions?
- d) How, if at all, did writing these journals affect me? Did I learn anything about myself through this process? If so, what?
- e) Do I consider myself a feminist? Has this changed since the first class?
- f) Any concluding comments related to the course.

ASSIGNMENT - 20%

You will write one paper (maximum 5 pages) in question and answer format based on an interview with a wise or older woman in your life. You must answer BOTH sets of questions.

Questions to ask the woman you are interviewing:

1. When and where were you born?
2. What were your parents like? (E.g., ethnic, religious, and economic background).
3. What were important influences on you as a child?
4. What was your relationship like with your mother?
5. Did you work outside the home?
6. What are your main interests?
7. Are there some things that you have always wanted to do but never had the opportunity?
8. Additional questions that arise.

Questions to reflect upon:

1. What are your earliest memories of your mentor?
2. What is your relationship like with her—in the past and now?
3. What messages or advice did she give you about being a woman or man?
4. In what ways are you like or unlike your mentor?
5. What have you learned from doing this interview? Are there areas of your

- mentor's life/experience that you have learned about for the first time?
6. Do you have any new understandings about your mentor now?
 7. What was your mentor's reaction to being interviewed?
 8. Additional reflections that arise.

Source: Howe, K. G. (1989). Telling our mother's story: Changing daughter's perceptions of their mothers in a women's studies course. In R. K. Unger (Ed.). Representations: Social constructions of gender (pp. 45-60). Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing Company, Inc.

MID TERM EXAM - 30%

Multiple Choice

FINAL EXAM - 30%

Multiple Choice

GRADING, ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION, LATENESS PENALTIES AND MISSED TESTS

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g. A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear a number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.).

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2010-2011/academic/index.htm>)

Assignment Submission: Reflection papers and assignments must be submitted on Moodle and must be received by 11:59pm on the due date specified for each.

Lateness Penalty: Reflection papers and assignments received late than the due date will be penalized (1 grade point per day that the assignment is late). Students with a documented reason for missing the due date, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor's letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor.

Missed Tests: Students with a documented reason for missing a test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting

documentation (e.g., doctor's letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Accommodations may be permission to write a make-up test, or reweighting of course evaluations. Further extensions or accommodations will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty. Students who miss a test must notify the course instructor prior to the test and will only be able to write a make-up test if they have valid documentation to support their absence. Serious illnesses and family tragedies are the only acceptable justifications for missing a test. **Please note** that there is no guarantee that the make-up test will follow the same format as the original and the date of the make-up test will be assigned by the course Instructor.

ADDITIONAL TEST INFORMATION

For tests you must bring York sessional and photo ID

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Moodle: You are responsible for checking *Moodle* for relevant course-related material and updates. Steps: 1) visit <https://moodle11.yorku.ca/moodle/>, 2) log-in using your PassportYork ID, 3) select HH/PSYC3480A.

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) -

http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/s
1	09/12	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	09/19	Gender Stereotypes and Gender Biases	Chapter 2
3	09/26	Gender Comparisons in Cognitive Abilities and Attitudes about Success Reflection Paper 1 Due (5%)	Chapter 5
4	10/03	Independent Research Project	
5	10/10	Gender Comparisons in Social and Personality Characteristics	Chapter 6
6	10/17	Women and Work	Chapter 7
7	10/24	Mid Term Exam - 30% Ch 1,2,5,6,7	
-	10/31	NO CLASS – Co-Curricular Week	
8	11/07	Love Relationships Assignment Due (20%)	Chapter 8
9	11/14	Sexuality	Chapter 9
10	11/21	Women and Psychological Disorders Reflection Paper 2 Due (5%)	Chapter 12
11	11/28	Violence Against Women	Chapter 13
12	12/05	Moving Onward Final Reflection Paper Due (10%)	Chapter 15
Exam Period (12/10 – 12/23)	(Date TBA)	Final Exam - 30% Ch 8,9,12,13,15	