

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
FACULTY OF HEALTH  
YORK UNIVERSITY  
HH/PSYC 3480 3.0N  
PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN  
WINTER, 2013  
COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Erin C. Ross

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**Office:** 228 BSB  
**Office hours:** Thursdays, 12:30 – 13:30 (drop in) OR  
Other times by appointment (in person or telephone)  
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**Required texts:** Matlin, M.W. (2012). *The psychology of women* (7th ed.).  
Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. ISBN-10: 0840032897  
ISBN-13: 9780840032898

Lecture materials from course Moodle site  
<https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/>

**Prerequisite:** HH/PSYC1010 6.0 (or equivalent) – Introduction to Psychology - with a  
minimum C grade

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## 1. The Purpose of the Course

The psychology of women differs from many other courses offered in psychology. It combines theory-based with applied research to a much greater extent than other areas of psychology (except possibly social psychology), and there is more open debate in the literature about basic assumptions than you will find in other areas. Finally, it crosses into other areas of psychology (e.g., physiological, cognitive, developmental) as well as other academic disciplines (e.g., sociology, linguistics, women's studies). The purpose of this course is to survey the major theoretical approaches of the area, particularly as they have been applied to various topic areas, and to explore basic assumptions made about women's experience. In short, then, this course is designed to expose you to a variety of ways in which psychologists have thought about and researched women.

Learning objectives for this course:

- Identify and understand the main theoretical approaches utilized in the study of women
- Comprehend how these approaches apply to a variety of issues related to women
- Integrate the empirical research findings on women with theoretical perspectives
- Recognize and appreciate the diversity of women and their experiences
- Understand how social policy regarding women and gender shapes the experiences of women
- Read and comprehend a research article on an issue related to the psychology of women and write reasoned responses to a set of questions related to the research article

## 2. Your Responsibilities

I will do all that I can to make this course an educational experience. I hope to be able to communicate why studying the varied aspects of women's experience is important. The course takes place in a 'largish' teaching environment and, as such, presents certain difficulties. First, there is a tendency for students to sit back and receive information and then recycle it for the examinations. Don't be afraid to ask questions or to ask for clarification or to ask me to repeat information. It's highly likely that you will not be the only person encountering difficulty. Second, don't accept everything that I say uncritically. Everyone has biases and you should not be afraid to question my assumptions. I will try as much as possible to make them explicit, but I encourage you to think about what I say in a critical fashion. Third, you may not capture audio or video or still images of me without my explicit permission. This includes audiotaping lectures, using a webcam to capture images of me lecturing or taking still photographs of me. Do note that in this course, you will have access to audio lecture capture which includes the audio component of the lecture along with images of the material presented on the lecture hall screen. This is available through Moodle. Be aware that once the course is finished, you will no longer have access to these files. Also, this is NOT an online course. These recordings are a supplement to the lectures, not a replacement for attending. If, for whatever reason, the lecture recording fails, I will NOT provide the material in an alternate form. While Learning Technology Services does their very best to provide this service, there is no guarantee it will be available 100% of the time.

You are expected to abide by the York University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, available at <http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/pdfs/CodeofRightsandResponsibilities.pdf>. In class, I expect that all cell phones and pagers be placed in a non-ringing mode (vibrate or off). If your phone goes off during lecture, I expect you to leave the lecture hall to answer it. If you are using a laptop during the lecture and you are using it for purposes other than note-taking, I may ask that you shut it off as it may disturb other students around you. Headphones attached to MP3 players, phones, computers, etc. are not to be worn in class, as the noise emanating from them may be disruptive to other students. Conversations that take place when I am lecturing are disruptive to me and to the students around you. I expect that this will not be a problem, but should it be, I will take action to deal with it.

### 3. My Responsibilities

My responsibilities lie in three areas. First, as course instructor, I will respond to your inquiries as quickly as possible. There are also teaching assistants for this course who serve as a resource for you. I hold office hours weekly and I also set aside time at the beginning of every class to answer questions. See page 1 of the syllabus for our contact information or click the contact information topic in Moodle. Also, see the next section on e-mail. Second, we will return graded material as quickly as possible. Marks will be posted on the course Moodle site (click on the grades link under Administration). If you wish to see your exam, you may do so during office hours. Assignments will be returned to you with an attached grading sheet. Third, I come to lectures prepared and enthusiastic. I hope to encourage you to think about the material and engage with it as fully as possible.

### 4. E-mail

First, if you send me an e-mail during my office hours, I will do my best to answer it during that time period. If you send an e-mail to me or to the teaching assistants at other times, we endeavour to answer all e-mail within 24 hours on weekdays. An e-mail sent on the weekend is unlikely to be answered until the following Monday. Second, make sure when you send e-mail that you include your name and student number – with large classes, this is particularly important. Third, make sure you include either the course number (i.e., PSYC3480) or course title (i.e., Psych of Women) in the subject line of the e-mail. Finally, be aware that gmail and hotmail addresses have a tendency to get filtered out as spam. While I regularly check my spam folder, if you don't get an answer from us in reasonable time and you have sent the e-mail from hotmail or gmail, you may need to resend the e-mail from your York account.

### 5. Evaluation

There will be two exams, each worth 40% of the total course mark and a written assignment worth 20% of the total course mark. To pass the course, you must receive a total course grade of 50% or better. The dates on which exams occur in this course are listed on the attached schedule of events. The exams are multiple choice in nature and are 2 hours and fifteen minutes in duration. More specific information about the exams will be posted on the course Moodle site – click on the exam information topic. When you come to the exam, you must present acceptable photo identification in order to be admitted – acceptable identification includes a York University identification card, a government issued card, such as a Health Card or Driver's Licence or a passport. **Please note** that there **are** chapters covered on each

examination which will not be the topic of a lecture – students are responsible for this textbook material on their own, though I will gladly answer questions on the material in class.

The short written assignment worth 20% of your course mark entails reading an assigned paper and responding to a set of structured questions. This must be done in 4 typed, double-spaced pages, and the assignment is to be submitted to me personally, either during my office hours or in class. Note that the assignment is due on March 28, 2013 by 2:30 p.m.. The following penalties apply for late assignment submission – 25% of the grade for the first 24 hours or any part thereof. For each 24 hours (or part thereof) after this, 10% of the grade will be deducted.

**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 numeric grade.

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/calendars/2011-2012/academic/grades/index.htm>)

## 6. Academic Honesty

I am reminding you that the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty will be strictly enforced in this course (Policy available at <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>). There is an academic integrity tutorial and quiz on the York University website – it reviews the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and provides examples of problems with academic honesty. You can get to this site by clicking on the following link:

[http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic\\_integrity/](http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/)

I strongly advocate that you take this tutorial and read the assignment instructions very carefully. I take all breaches of academic honesty very seriously and strongly support the Senate policy on such matters. Don't jeopardize your academic career by engaging in academic dishonesty.

## 7. Missing an Exam

**First and foremost, read the Psychology Department webpage on missed tests and exams, available at**

[http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/advising\\_missedtests.html](http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/advising_missedtests.html)

If you have a **very serious and fully documented** reason for being excused from an exam (e.g., death in the immediate family, formally documented visit to an emergency room or a condition that SERIOUSLY affects your ability to take the exam), you may take a make-up exam in lieu of the exam missed. You must contact me at least one day in advance of the exam and provide documentation in order to be permitted to take a make-up exam. In the case of an emergency, contact me as soon as possible. If you cannot reach me, a message can be left on my voice-mail, which records the date and time of your call. In order to write a deferred examination, you **MUST** follow the steps outlined below.

If you miss an exam for other reasons or cannot provide documentation, you will receive a grade of zero. If you miss the examination on the deferred midterm examination date for **whatever** reason, then you will write an exam on the date of the final that covers the whole course (i.e., worth 80% of your course grade). If you miss the deferred final examination for whatever reason, a grade of zero will be recorded for you and you must then petition your home faculty to be permitted to write the final examination. Deferred midterm examinations take place on a single scheduled date that will be determined during the semester. Deferred final examinations take place on a date set in conjunction with the Department of Psychology. More information about deferred examinations will be made available on the course Moodle site.

**If you are requesting a deferred examination under the Religious Accommodation Guidelines, please read the following.**

The italicized material below is taken verbatim from  
<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

### ***Religious Accommodation Guidelines***

#### ***Religious Accommodation Guidelines: Final Examinations***

*Students who, because of religious commitment cannot write a formally scheduled examination (December and April examination periods) on the date scheduled, should contact the course instructor **no later than three weeks prior to the start of the examination period** to arrange an alternative examination date. An [Examination Accommodation form](#) is available for this purpose in Student Client Services, Bennett Centre for Student Services.*

*When arrangements between the student and instructor cannot be made, or if the student does not feel comfortable about approaching the instructor to request a religious accommodation, then the student should contact the associate dean of the Faculty in which the course is offered. Students are required to contact the associate dean not less than 14 days prior to the start of the examination and, if requested to do so, present evidence concerning the religious obligations involved.*

*The associate dean may consider a number of options to provide an accommodation. The choice will depend on the student's particular circumstance.*

*For example the accommodations may include:*

- (a) Treating the request as a conflict, and accommodating it within the examination period, or*
- (b) Providing a deferred examination as soon as possible.*

#### ***Religious Accommodation Guidelines: Other than Final Examinations***

*Students, who because of religious commitment cannot meet academic obligations, other than formally scheduled examinations (December and April examination period), on certain holy days are responsible for giving their instructor reasonable notice (not less than 14 days), of each conflict.*

*Solutions may include:*

- (a) Rescheduling the evaluation, or*
- (b) Preparing an alternative evaluation for that particular student, or*
- (c) Recalculating the total evaluation in the course to eliminate the component that has been missed.*

*When the instructor and student are unable to agree on suitable accommodation, the matter will be referred to the associate dean who may request that the student present evidence concerning the religious obligations involved. The associate dean will convey the decision to the instructor and student.*

*You may contact the Dean's Office at the Faculty of Health at 416-736-5124.*

**If you are requesting a deferred examination for medical reasons, please read the following.**

► For a missed mid-term examination, you MUST include:

1. a statement by an attending physician which includes the following information:  
(taken verbatim from [http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/advising\\_missedtests.html](http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/advising_missedtests.html)).
  - i. full name, mailing address, telephone number of the physician.
  - ii. state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and
  - iii. an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student's ability to study and perform over the period in question.

**NOTE:** the physician's office may be contacted to verify that the forms were completed by the physician.

**and**

2. a completed Deferred Exam Request Form (available on the course Moodle site).

I must sign the Request Form - you must obtain my signature in person during my office hours or at class. DO NOT LEAVE FORMS FOR ME TO SIGN. Once I have signed your form, you will be informed of the date and time of this examination, which are determined by the Department.

► For a missed final examination, you MUST include:

1. a statement by an attending physician which includes the following information:  
(taken verbatim from [http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/advising\\_missedtests.html](http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/advising_missedtests.html)).
  - i. full name, mailing address, telephone number of the physician.
  - ii. state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and
  - iii. an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student's ability to study and perform over the period in question.

**NOTE:** the physician's office may be contacted to verify that the forms were completed by the physician.

**and**

2. a completed Deferred Standing Agreement Form (available from the Registrar's Office at [http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred\\_standing\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf)).

I must sign the Registrar's Office Deferred Standing Agreement Form - you must obtain my signature in person during my office hours. The Deferred Standing Agreement Form is sent to the Registrar's Office but no grade is submitted for you. Once your deferred examination is graded, I submit a grade to the Registrar's Office for you.

**There may be non-medical circumstances in which you will be permitted to write a deferred exam.** Tests/exams missed due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/bus ticket/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc.. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. This documentation must accompany the Psychology Department form noted above and, if the exam is a final exam, the Deferred Standing Agreement form.

Examination dates are in this course syllabus. You *know* that you will have your mid-term exam on February 28, 2013 and the final exam will take place during the Winter exam period (April 10 – 26, 2013), so if you have conflicting personal events scheduled, drop the course now.

Be aware that the following are examples of reasons given by students in the past for requesting a deferred examination that are NOT considered to be legitimate (this is NOT an exhaustive list!).

- weddings
- feeling stressed
- family reunions
- coaching sports teams
- having one other examination within 24 hours of this one (see Registrar's Office regulations on examinations)
- studying so hard I made myself dizzy
- having to work
- mild colds
- holidays/vacations
- shift work
- not feeling prepared
- not having the course syllabus and not knowing when the exam was scheduled
- not being able to find the examination room
- losing my notes/textbook

For more information on deferred standing, see <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/>



## 8. Accommodation of Students With Disabilities

I am happy to accommodate students who write exams through the Alternate Examination Centre. It's important that you have a clear understanding of the conditions under which I am willing to make these accommodations.

1.	<p>Make sure you have reviewed the steps required for writing alternate examinations. Make sure you get forms filled in properly and that you give the centre sufficient time to make the necessary accommodations. This means making sure you book your exams at least <b>10 business days</b> in advance of the exam. I will NOT accommodate students who do not register with the Alternate Exam Centre in sufficient time, no matter the reason.</p>
2.	<p>If you miss your exam for what is described in this course outline as a legitimate reason, you must get in touch with me as soon as possible and follow the process described in the course outline in the section entitled "Missing an Examination". You must fill in and have me sign the Alternate Exam and Test Rescheduling Form, available at <a href="#">Alternate Exam and Test Rescheduling Request form</a>. If you do not complete the forms described in the course syllabus, no examination will be delivered to the centre.</p> <p>If you do not have a legitimate reason for missing the test or examination, you will receive a grade of zero.</p>
3.	<p>If you have a conflict with tests or exams because of a need for additional time, you must make arrangements with me during my office hours or at class.</p>
4.	<p>If there is some problem with making arrangements with one of the Centres providing disability services on campus, you must provide me with a contact name and e-mail address so I can verify this difficulty with the Centre.</p>
5.	<p>You must arrange to write your examination at the same time as the rest of the class.</p>
6.	<p>I remind students to be familiar with the Senate Policy and attached Guidelines on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. It is available by clicking on the following link:  <a href="http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=68">http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=68</a></p>

## 9. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter(s) from Matlin</b>
Jan. 10	Classes start - Introduction	Ch. 1
Jan. 17	Gender Stereotypes and Other Gender Biases	Ch. 2
Jan. 24	Infancy and Childhood	Ch. 3
Jan. 31	Adolescence	Ch. 4
Feb. 7	Cognitive Abilities and Achievement Motivation	Ch. 5
Feb. 14	Gender Comparisons in Social and Personality Characteristics	Ch. 6 & Ch. 7
Feb. 16 - 22	Reading Week	
<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>Midterm Examination</b>	
Mar. 7	Women and Work & Love Relationships	Ch. 8
Mar. 14	Sexuality & Pregnancy, Childbirth and Motherhood	Ch. 9 & Ch. 10
Mar. 21	Women and Health	Ch. 11 & Ch. 12
Mar. 28	Violence Against Women <b>Written Assignment Due</b>	Ch. 13
Apr. 4	Women and Older Adults & Moving Onward	Ch. 14 & Ch. 15
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Classes end</b>	
<b>Apr. 10 – 26</b>	<b>Final Examination period</b>	

Midterm Examination covers: Chapters 1- 7 of Matlin and lecture material from Jan. 10 – Feb. 14

Final Examination covers: Chapters 8 - 15 of Matlin and lecture material from Mar. 7 – Apr. 4

### Note the following important academic dates:

Jan. 21, 2013 Last date to enrol in Winter Term courses without permission of the course instructor

Feb. 4, 2013 Last date to enrol in Winter Term courses with permission of the course instructor

Mar. 15, 2013 Last date to drop a Winter Term course without receiving a grade.