

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
FACULTY OF HEALTH
YORK UNIVERSITY
HH/PSYC 3480 3.0A
PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN
S2, 2013
COURSE LOCATION: Vari Hall B
COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Erin C. Ross, PhD

Office: 228 BSB
Office hours: Wednesdays, 12:00 – 13:00 on a drop in basis
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
There is also an e-book version of this text. Go to
<http://www.nelsonbrain.com> – enter Matlin in the search box
Make sure you select the 7th edition.

Lecture materials available on Moodle
<https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/>

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

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
- Analyze a topic related to women's experience from the text and lectures, incorporating personal analysis and critique.

2. Your Responsibilities

I will do all that I can to make this course a positive educational environment. 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 challenges. 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.

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 all cell phones to 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.

This is an intensive course, taking place in half the time of a course during the Fall or Winter semester. As such, you cannot afford to fall behind. You know the dates of exams and the chapters from the textbook covered on each exam so start reading now. As well, the assignment is posted on Moodle, so you can start on it. Missing exams is a particular problem as there is little time for deferring them. I will advise you to drop the course if you miss the first exam as it is difficult to make up the study time and be ready for the next exam.

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 on Contact Us in Moodle. Also, see the next section on e-mail. Second, we will return graded material as quickly as possible. Marks will be posted online. 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. **Audio capture of lectures**

I use Camtasia to record lectures, 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.

5. **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 (exception to this is around exam dates). 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 we will only answer email that comes from a YORKU account – no Hotmail or gmail or any other email provider is acceptable. If you send from one of these email providers, we will NOT answer.

If you send an email asking a question that has already been answered in class or through a Moodle announcement, you will receive back an email that states this. I will not answer questions that have already been answered in class or via an announcement.

6. Evaluation

There will be three exams worth a total of 80% of the course mark; exam 1 is worth 35% of the course grade, exam 2 is worth 30% of the course grade and exam 3 is worth 15% of the course mark. There is also 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 consist of multiple choice questions only. More specific information about the exams will be posted on Moodle. When you come to the exam, you must present acceptable photo identification in order to be admitted – this 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 is worth 20% of your course mark. It is 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 July 29, 2013 by 2:00 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. If you believe you have a valid reason for handing in your assignment late, this may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation.

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/2012-2013/academic/grades/index.htm>)

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

7. 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/

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.

8. Missing an Exam

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 make up that exam. You must contact me at least one day in advance of the exam and provide documentation in order to be permitted to make up the 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. **DO NOT EMAIL THE TAs ABOUT MISSED EXAMS.**

If you miss an exam for other reasons or cannot provide documentation, you will receive a grade of zero.

Please note that exam 3 is designated as the final examination.

If you miss exam 1 for a legitimate reason, you may write a makeup exam to be held one week after exam 1. If you miss this deferred exam for ANY reason, I suggest that you drop the course immediately. If you choose not to do this, you will write an exam on the date of exam 3 that will cover all the material from exams 1 and 3 (weight will now be 50% of the course mark).

If you miss exam 2, there is no deferred exam. Instead, you will write an exam on the date of exam 3 which will cover all the material for exams 2 and 3 (weight will now be 45% of the course mark).

If you miss both exams 1 and 2, you will write an exam on the date of exam 3 that covers all the material from the course (weight will now be 80% of the course mark). I really do NOT recommend this in any way.

If you miss exam 3, the final examination, there will be one and only one deferred exam date (date to be set sometime between August 6 and 23, 2013). The exact date will be announced on Moodle. If you miss this deferred exam for ANY 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. More information about deferred examinations will be made available on Moodle.

If you are requesting a deferred examination under the Religious Accommodation Guidelines, please make sure you read the Religious Accommodation Guidelines published at

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

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

- ▶ For a missed examination 1 and 2, you MUST include:
 1. a statement by an attending physician which includes the following information:
 - 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)
 - 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. an email describing why you have missed the exam.

I will respond to your email and once I have received your documentation, you will be informed of the date and time of the deferred examination.

- ▶ For a missed examination 3, you MUST include:
 1. a statement by an attending physician which includes the following information:
 - 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 at 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. For more information on deferred standing, see <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/>

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. This documentation must accompany your request or, if the exam is examination 3, the Deferred Standing Agreement form.

Examination dates are in this course syllabus. You **know** the exact dates of the exams in this course, 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

9. 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	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 submit your booking request well 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.
2	If you miss your exam for 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 Alternate Exam and Test Rescheduling Request form . If you do not complete the forms described in the course syllabus, no examination will be delivered to the centre. If you do not have a legitimate reason for missing the test or examination, you will receive a grade of zero.
3	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.
4	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.
5	You must arrange to write your examination at the same time as the rest of the class.
6	I remind students to be familiar with the Senate Policy and attached Guidelines on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. It is available at: http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=68

10. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter from Matlin (see Note 1)
June 24	Classes start - Introduction	Ch. 1
June 26	Gender Stereotypes	Ch. 2
July 3	Sexual Differentiation	Ch. 3
July 8	Children's Understandings of Gender	Ch. 3
July 10	EXAM 1 (see Note 2)	
July 15	Women & Work	Ch. 7
July 17	Love Relationships	Ch. 8
July 22	Lesbian Experience	Ch. 8
July 24	EXAM 2 (see Note 3)	
July 29	Depression WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE	Ch. 12
July 31	EXAM 3 – Final Examination (see Note 4)	
August 2	S2 Classes end	

Note 1. Not all chapters from Matlin are covered in lecture, but they will be tested (except Ch. 15)

Note 2. Examination 1 covers Chapters 1 - 6 of Matlin and lecture material from June 26 – July 8

Note 3. Examination 2 covers Chapters 7 - 11 of Matlin and lecture material from July 15 – July 22

Note 4. Examination 3 covers Chapters 12 - 14 of Matlin and lecture material from July 29

Note the following important academic dates:

June 28, 2013 Last date to enrol in S2 courses without permission of the course instructor

July 6, 2013 Last date to enrol in S2 courses with permission of the course instructor

July 19, 2013 Last date to drop an S2 course without receiving a grade.