

Psychology 362: Psychology of Women Summer 2006

Instructor: Heidi L. M. DeLoveh, MPhil.	Class Schedule: MTWR 11:45am-1:50pm
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Course Description and Objectives

Welcome to the Psychology of Women! This course will focus on theories and research related to the psychology of women as they apply to identity, interpersonal relationships, work, education, and physical and psychological health. We will examine social attitudes concerning what it means to be a woman and the effects of those attitudes on women's development. It is expected that an important aspect of this course will involve examining your own beliefs about gender and the way it interacts with race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, and sexuality. Although the focus is on women, this course is *not* for women only.

Class Format

Due to class size, this course will be largely lecture based. However, in-class discussions, exercises, and films will also be included and class participation is essential to the course. Lectures will cover the themes presented in the text, clarify difficult material, answer questions, provoke discussions, and present information not covered in the text that will be on exams.

Required Texts

Matlin, M. W. (2004). *The Psychology of Women* (5th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

*****Additional reading may be assigned through the term**

Course Requirements and Grading

Class Participation (15%): Class participation is an essential aspect of this course. In order to earn full credit for participation, students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to discuss it. Although attendance will not be specifically graded, it will be difficult to earn full points for participation if you are not present.

Exams (50%): There will be two exams in this course, each worth 25% of your total grade. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer/essay, true/false, and matching. The midterm will cover material from the first half of the course and the final will cover material from the second half of the course. No makeup exams will be given, except under extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control. In such cases, students must submit documentation along with a written explanation as soon as physically possible after the situation arises.

Journals (20%): Students will be required to keep a journal each week concerning the material covered in the course and their personal reflections on that material. Journal entries should be approximately 2 pages and must be typed, double spaced, and submitted in a folder. Additional information about the journals will be provided in class.

Paper (15%): Students will choose a topic from one of their journal entries or another topic of interest from the semester and will write a formal reflective paper. The paper should be 3-4 pages in length. Further details about this assignment will be distributed during the 3rd week of class.

Grading: The grading scale is as follows:

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D	60-69%
A-	90-92%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	F	Below 60%
		B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%		

Policies and Expectations and Other Information

Retention of Materials: It is the student's responsibility to retain a copy (paper or electronic) of all work that has been handed in, and all returned materials that have been graded.

Honor Code: This course will be conducted in accordance with the George Mason University Honor Code, which is available for review at <http://www.gmu.edu/org/honorcouncil/guidelines.htm>. Exam performances and all assignments must be each student's own work. If you have any questions concerning the honor code or permissible use of materials or collaboration, please see me.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Activation of GMU Email: Activation of GMU email is required. Students are responsible for checking email regularly as notices or other information relevant to the class may be dispersed via this method. If you do not regularly check your GMU email, please have your mail forwarded to another account.

Class Discussions: Throughout this course we will touch on a variety of potentially sensitive and controversial topics. I expect the class to maintain a mature and respectful atmosphere. You are encouraged to ask questions, offer opinions, and comment on statements made by others in a respectful manner.

Tentative Schedule of Classes and Topics

Please note that what follows is a *tentative* schedule and thus may change. It is your responsibility to become informed of any changes as well as any other announcements or information presented in class. Unless otherwise specified, the reading assigned for each class should be completed prior to that week's class.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READING
Week 1	M 5/22	Introduction	N/A
	T 5/23	Feminism	Chapters 1 & 15
	W 5/24	Gender roles	Chapter 2
	R 5/25	Gender roles and childhood	Chapter 3
	F 5/26	***Last day to add classes	
Week 2	M 5/29	***Memorial Day – No class	
	T 5/30	Adolescence 1st journal entry due	Chapter 4
	W 5/31	Older adulthood	Chapter 14
	R 6/1	Intelligence/Cognition ***Last day to drop classes	Chapter 5
Week 3	M 6/5	Cognitive/Social domains 2nd journal entry due	Chapter 6
	T 6/6	Work	Chapter 7
	W 6/7	Love	Chapter 8
	R 6/8	MIDTERM	
Week 4	M 6/12	Sexuality 3rd journal entry due	Chapter 9
	T 6/13	Pregnancy and childbirth	Chapter 10
	W 6/14	Violence against women	Chapter 13
	R 6/15	Violence (cont)	
Week 5	M 6/19	NO CLASS	
	T 6/20	Mental Health 4th journal entry due Paper due	Chapter 12
	W 6/21	Physical Health	Chapter 11
Final	R 6/22	FINAL EXAM: 1:30-4:15	