
PSYCHOLOGY 206: Psychology of Women
Prof. Mariah Schug
Widener University, Fall 2016

The social construction of gender and its impact on the lives of women are examined in this course. This survey course is designed to cover a wide array of psychological topics as they relate to the female experience in American culture. The influence of historical, developmental, and social contexts on psychological experiences is also examined. The goals will be achieved through the following objectives: reading course materials, attending course lectures, engaging in discussion of controversial issues, taking quizzes and exams, doing homework assignments, and writing a reflection paper.

In-person office hours: M 1:00-2:55, T 11:00-12:00, Th 11:00-12:00

Virtual office hours (via email, Skype, or phone): W 10:00-11:00

Office: Freedom Hall 205

Email: mschug@widener.edu

COURSE READINGS

Textbook: Half the Human Experience, 7th Edition, available used online

Additional readings will be available on Campus Cruiser.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Cross-Cultural Interview: 25 points

Final Reflection Paper: 25 points

Quizzes: 15 points (6 quizzes, 3 points), dates announced in class, lowest dropped

Participation: 35 points (includes attendance, small and large group discussion)

Exams I and II: 100 points (50 points each)

HOMEWORK AND PAPER

Both assignments should be submitted on Campus Cruiser by the deadline. More detailed instructions are provided on Campus Cruiser.

Cross-Cultural Interview: Interview someone who differs from you in at least two identity categories. This person cannot be another member of this class. I will provide a list of questions for you but you should also create your own questions. Your write-up should be no more than two pages in length. Deadline: 11:59PM on 11/18.

Final Reflection Paper: This paper is meant to document your personal experience in this course. Consider how your understanding of gender issues and personal beliefs have or have not changed over the course of the semester. Did the class change your thinking on gender issues? Did it challenge your belief systems? If so, how? If not, why not? Deadline: 11:59PM on 12/1.

POLICIES

If you are to miss a deadline you must contact me **before** class time on the due date. The only acceptable excuse for missing deadlines is a medical emergency. If you are unable to provide documentation for serious illness, you will lose 2-5 points for each day an assignment is late. **Attendance is mandatory. If you have more than five unexcused absences you may fail the course regardless of your grades. For more details on attendance policies, see the Undergraduate Catalog:**
<http://www.widener.edu/academics/catalogs/docs/current/UG14Cat.pdf>.

Quizzes are given at the beginning of the last class period of each week. Students have five minutes to complete the quiz. If you are more than five minutes late, you will not have the opportunity to take the quiz.

Plagiarism is unacceptable in any form and will result in a failing grade for the assignment, course, or both. All plagiarism will be reported to officials on campus and may result in additional academic consequences. In addition to copying ideas and text from published authors, plagiarism includes copying from online sources and classmates. Turning in your own work from another course also counts as plagiarism. **Cite all authors, even those online, and always use quotes when quoting.**

Write your emails as if you were in a professional context: Emails should start with a formal greeting, end with a formal closing, and ask for only information that is not available elsewhere. **Student athletes:** If you anticipate a game-related conflict, please communicate with me about it at least one week before the conflict.

Laptops are not permitted in class.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any student has the right to request reasonable accommodation of a disability. Accommodations can be requested through Academic Support Services, Disabilities Services (520 E. 14th St., 610-499-1266). Disabilities Services is the office that authorizes all accommodations on campus. Please note that you will need to present documentation of your disability to Disabilities Services. It is important to make this request as soon as possible so that we will have time to make any necessary arrangements.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course addresses the following Psychology Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will become familiar with the **concepts and theories** in the psychology of women (SLO 3).
 - Assessed in the exams and class discussion.

- Students will be challenged to **think critically** about the current research in psychology and about representations of women in the media (SLO 2).
 - Assessed in the exams and discussion.
- Students will become better able to **communicate effectively** in the field of psychology (SLO 1).
 - Assessed in the written assignments (interview and reflection paper).
- Students will develop skills to be **responsible citizens** though learn about how to create effective institutions for social change (SLO 6).
 - Assessed in the exams and discussion.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

To succeed you need to attend all sessions and complete all readings. You are responsible for material covered in both lecture and the readings. I will not lecture on every topic that is in the text, and I will lecture on topics not covered in the text.

COURSE TOPICS, READINGS, AND SCHEDULE

Readings are due at the **first class** period each week.

Week 1, 8/30 and 9/1

Topic: Course Intro; Theoretical Perspectives

Read: Chapter 1: Introduction

Week 2, 9/6 and 9/8

Topic: Sources of Gender Ideologies

Read: Chapter 3: Gender Stereotypes and Gender Differences and How Have Gender Stereotypes Changed in the Last 30 Years? Science Daily, 3/9/2015, at: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/03/160309082804.htm>

Week 3, 9/13 and 9/15

Topic: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

Read: Chapter 4, Women of Color, and Feminism and Race: Just Who Counts as a 'Woman of Color'? NPR Code Switch, 9/12/12, at: <http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/09/12/221469077/feminism-and-race-just-who-counts-as-a-woman-of-color>

Week 4, 9/20 and 9/22

Topic: Gender, Communication, and Emotion

Read: Chapter 5, Gender and Language and Chapter 6, Gender and Emotion

Week 5, 9/27 and 9/29

Topic: Development of Gender Concepts and Gendered Behaviors

Read: Chapter 7, From Infancy to Old Age: Development Across the Lifespan and Barry et al, 1957. "A Cross-Cultural Survey of Some Sex Differences in Socialization." *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* 55, no. 3: 327.

Week 6, 10/4 and 10/6

Topic: Gender and Performance

Read: Chapter 8, Abilities, Achievement, and Motivation

Week 7, 10/11 and 10/13

Topic: Finish Gender and Performance; **Exam I on the 13th.**

Week 8, 10/18 and 10/20

Topic: Gender in the Workplace

Read: Chapter 9, Women and Work

Week 9, 10/27 (Fall Break on 10/25)

Topic: Biological Factors

Read: Chapter 10: Biological Influences and Women's Behavior

Week 10, 11/1 and 11/3

Topic: Female Sexuality

Read: Chapter 12, Female Sexuality

Week 11, 11/8 and 11/10

Topic: LGBTQ Women

Read: Chapter 13, Lesbian and Bisexual Women

Week 12, 11/15 and 11/17

Topic: Women's Physical and Mental Health

Read: Chapter 11, Psychology and Women's Health Issues and Chapter 15, Women and Mental Health Issues

Homework Due: Submit Cross-Cultural Interview through Campus Cruiser on 11/18.

Week 13, 11/22 (Thanksgiving Break on 11/24)

Topic: Women at Risk and Women as Survivors

Read: Chapter 14, The Victimization of Women and 'Survivor' Vs. 'Victim': Why Choosing Your Words Carefully Is Important, by Gwendolyn Wu, 3/16/16, at:
<http://helloflo.com/survivor-vs-victim-why-choosing-your-words-carefully-is-important/>

Week 14, 11/29 and 12/1

Topic: Impacts of Sexism on Males

Read: Chapter 16, The Psychology of Men

Paper Due: Submit Reflection Paper through Campus Cruiser on 12/1.

Week 15, 12/6 and 12/8

Topic: Course Conclusions, **Exam II on the 8th**