PS 345

Psychology of Women

Spring, 2005

Instructor: Stacey B. Zaremba

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Office: Room 229 Hurd Academic Complex

Office Hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:30
Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30
Wednesday by appointment only
Thursday 10:00 – 11:30
Friday by appointment only

If none of these times are convenient for you, other times may be arranged. Please feel free to call me to set up an appointment.

Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday (8:50 – 10:00)
Class Room: Room 235-Hurd Academic Complex

Course Description

This course has as its central focus an examination of the research on gender differences and female gender development from a variety of perspectives. Special emphasis will be placed on critical analysis of the assumptions about human nature and science that are embedded in our approaches to these issues. The approach will be interdisciplinary, with attention to biological, cognitive, behavioral, and social factors, which influence the emergence of an individual's gender. Topics include gender role development, achievement and motivation, women and their work, women of color, health issues, sexuality, adjustment, and victimization.

Course Requirements

1. Discussion Leader
Students will lead a class discussion (in small groups) on a pre-selected topic. You should present your topic in a way that is interactive with the class as a whole. The discussion leader dates and topics are detailed on the syllabus below. Each group will be responsible for preparing a one-page fact sheet (with a reference list) to be distributed on the day of your discussion.

Since you are presenting in a group-- it is important to be well coordinated and non-overlapping. Your topic should be well defined and you should read beyond the text material as you prepare for your role as discussion leader. Each group member will receive an individual grade for their portion of the presentation, as well as written feedback from your classmates.

2. **Response Journal**

Each student will keep a response journal during the semester. The journal should contain your responses to the weekly reading assignments as well as your thoughts and feelings about our class discussions and other aspects of the course. **Your journals will be collected 4 –5 times during the semester.** You should write two journal entries a week. When there is assigned readings for the week you should write one entry based upon the readings and one open entry. During the weeks where there is no assigned reading you should write one open entry only.

Date your entries!

When discussing the readings, consider the following: do you agree/disagree with the author's view and why, are you surprised and why, does the material contradict other material you have read, are you delighted or disgusted by what you've read and why? (Of course, these are not the only questions you might think about!) Occasionally I will provide you with a journal question to help focus your responses to the readings in a particular way.

3. **Taking Action Project**

Students will work in small groups to take action to help local homeless women and their children. Each group will take action in a unique way. Each group will give a report on their taking action project to the class on April 19th.

Students will also write a short reflection paper. Describe the service you provided. How has this experience changed your value and belief system? How has your service affected your own sense of civic responsibility? **The reflection paper is due on April 19th.**

4. **Women’s Rights Project**
Moravian College will be focusing on Human Right during a portion of March. Keep in mind that March is also Women's History month. Our class will participate in a project in support of these events. Students will work with a partner to develop a fact sheet on an issue pertaining to women’s rights. Each group will select the topic that they would like to focus on and they will distribute their fact sheets and lead a discussion on their topic on March 1st and 3rd. Each group will write an Op Ed piece on their topic. These Op Ed’s will be submitted to the school newspaper or the local newspaper for publication.

5. Class Participation

Your attentive presence and prepared participation in the classroom are important both for a successful course and for your successful completion of the course. It is assumed and expected that you will attend class, complete the readings in advance of class, and come prepared to participate actively and thoughtfully in class. You will receive a class participation grade for each and every class session (excluding the session you lead). Students will help to determine their class participation grade by completing a class assessment form each session.

Evaluation

Your grade will be based on the following items; the extra weight (25%) to be determined through individual grade contracts (your Grade Contract is attached to the syllabus) Grade contracts are due on Thursday, January 13th. Listed below are the minimum percentages for each of the evaluation criteria that will determine your final grade.

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<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Yours (To be determined)</th>
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<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<td>Response Journal</td>
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<td>Taking Action Project</td>
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<td>Women’s Rights</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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Policy on plagiarism:

Evidence of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the College policy on academic honesty.

Required Reading:


Course Outline

Week I (1/11 & 1/13)

Organizational Meeting and Introduction to the Psychology of Women

The Value Clarification Exercise

* Grade Contracts are due on Thursday January 13th

Week 2 (1/18 & 1/20)

What is Feminism? The Meaning of Difference, Sexist Bias in Research and Feminist Research Methods

(P) Chapters 1 & 2
(C, G, & R) Readings 1,2,3,13,14,15, &16

Week 3 (1/25 & 1/27)

Taking Action Class Project: Homeless Women

Film: It Was a Wonderful Life (1/25)

Baker, S.G. (1994). Gender, Ethnicity, and Homelessness, American Behavioral Scientist,
Week 4 (2/1 & 2/3)

*Physical Development across the Lifespan:*
  *Prenatal Development (2/1)*
  Beyond “it’s a boy” and “it’s a girl”! –“it’s a ?”(2/3)

(P) Chapter 3
(C, G, & R) Reading 7

*Try to catch the Beauty show exhibit at The Payne Gallery (before 2/6)*

Week 5 (2/8 & 2/10)

Impact of the Media Representation on Girls’

(P) Chapter 5

**Discussion Topic:** The Effects of the Media on Self-Esteem (2/8)

Film: Slim Hopes (2/10)

Week 6 (2/15 & 2/17)

Women as Victims and Survivors

(P) Chapter 10
(C,G,&R) Readings 18,19,20, & 21

**Discussion Topic:** Women as Victims (2/15)

Guest Speaker: Domestic Violence (Turning Point) (2/17)
Week 7 (2/22 & 2/24)

Taking Action Project Updates

Attend the Vagina Monologues- no class 2/24

The Vagina Monologues will be performed on Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday at noon.

Week 8 (3/1 & 3/3)

Women’s Rights Presentations (3/1 & 3/3)
Op Ed’s due 3/1

Week 9 (3/8 & 3/10)

Spring Recess

Week 10 (3/15 & 3/17)

Naomi Tutu Presentation (3/15)

Gendered Communication

(P) Chapter 7
(C, G, & R) Reading 4

Discussion Topic: Gender and Communication (3/17)

Week 11 (3/22 & 3/24)

Women and Education

(P) Chapter 9

Discussion Topic: Women and The Educational System (3/22)

Week 12 (3/29 & 3/30)

Women’s Reproductive Rights
(P) Chapter 6

Discussion Topic: Reproductive Rights (3/29)

Film: If These Walls Could Talk I (3/30)

Week 13 (4/5 & 4/7)

Women’s Sexuality--

(P)Chapter 6
(C, G, & R) Reading 11, 12

Discussion Topic: Lesbianism (4/5)

Film: Out of the Past (4/7)

Week 14 (4/12 & 4/14)

Women and Health Issues: Physical and Mental

(P) Chapter 4 & 5
(C, G, & R) Reading 6, 22, 23, & 24

Discussion Topic: Women’s Physical Health Issues (4/12)

Discussion Topic: Women’s Physical Mental Issues (4/14)

Week 15 (4/19 & 4/21)

Taking Action Project Final Reports (4/19)

Trustee Meetings no class (4/21)

Week 16 (4/26 & 4/28)

Community Journal Discussion (4/26)

An Attempt at Closure and Evaluations (4/28)
PS: 345 Psychology of Women

Grade Contract

Due: January 13th

You will have some say in how your final course grade is determined by setting the exact weight of the five components of your grade. The minimum weight for each component is listed below (for a total of 75%). You are to determine how you would like to divide the final 25% (in 5% increments). You may add the 25% to a single component or you may split it up.

Minimum Yours
Group Presentation 15%
Response Journal 15%
Taking Action 15%
Women’s Rights Project 15%
Class Participation 15%

75% 100%

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I understand that this contract is final and non-negotiable. I will keep the original contract and provide you with a copy of the contract.

Name: _____________________________________
(Please Print)

Signature: _____________________________________

Date: _____________________________________