

Psychology of Women

ISS 3930, Section 601

PSY 4931, Section 604

WST 4930, Section 602

*Tentative Course Syllabus**

Fall 2007

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

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Course Introduction

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to an area of particular import in the field of psychology: the “Psychology of Women.” This course will provide a “challenging and thought provoking” (Hyde, p. ix) stimulus for students to engage research related to the psychology of women. This course will also enable students to understand women’s experiences resulting from biological and social/cultural factors. In addition, this course will allow students to understand the psychology of women from a multicultural perspective.

Some students learn better by engaging in hands-on activities related to course material. Therefore, students enrolled in this course will participate in a volunteer activity that will benefit the student and a local community agency. It is hoped that the research discussed in class will take on new meaning for students as they volunteer in agencies that provide services for women.

Course Objectives

Students enrolled in this course will be expected to:

- Develop a broad understanding of the psychology of women
- Understand theoretical perspectives underlying research which affects attitudes toward women
- Understand the nature of gender stereotypes and gender differences between women and men
- Increase awareness of women’s issues from a multicultural perspective
- Understand issues related to gender and language, emotion, and development
- Understand gender issues related to ability, achievement, motivation and work
- Understand issues related to women’s physical, mental and spiritual health
- Understand issues related to female sexuality
- Understand issues related to the victimization of women
- Engage in a volunteer experience related to the psychology of women

*Syllabus subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Texts: Hyde, J. S. (2007). *Half the human experience: The psychology of women*. (7th ed.). New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Morrison, Toni. (2000). *The bluest eye*. New York: Plume.

Recommended Text: American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

****Additional readings may be assigned during the semester.**

Website: Course-related assignments, discussion topics, announcements, etc. will be posted on the “My USF” website for this course. Students are required to post discussion questions or comments and check the website for course updates. You can access this site at <https://my.usf.edu>.

Please be advised that *notes and video/audio recording of this course are not permitted for the purpose of sale.*

Course Requirements and Evaluation/Grading Policy

➤ **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation are required for *all* class sessions. In order to receive full credit for attending a class session, students must be present for the entire class. Missing more than three classes will result in a lowered grade. Please see me if you miss more than three classes.

Participation is a key component of students’ understanding of course materials. Therefore, it is expected that each student read the assigned reading prior to each class session and prepare to discuss the readings with classmates. **Questions or topics of interest for discussion related to reading materials for each class should be posted on the “My USF” Discussion Board by 5:00 p.m. on Monday of each week.**

➤ **Reaction Paper: *The Bluest Eye***

Each student will be required to write a five-page reaction to *The Bluest Eye*. The reaction paper should be in response to the content of *The Bluest Eye*, especially as it relates to the psychology of women. Students must use topics covered in the first five chapters of *Half the Human Experience* as the basis for the reaction paper. **Due at the beginning of class on September 27, 2007.**

➤ **Civic Engagement:**

○ **Volunteer Placement**

Each student will be required to volunteer for 10 hours at a site of her/his choosing. The particular site chosen must enable the student to gain a deeper understanding of issues related to the psychology of women in an applied setting. Each student must provide

documentation that s/he volunteered 10 hours. Documentation must be signed by a supervisor at the site.

In order to obtain a volunteer placement, each student is required to attend the **Civic Engagement Fair on September 5, 2007**. Each student must bring documentation to class which shows you attended the Civic Engagement Fair and secured a volunteer placement on **September 6, 2007**.

○ **Assignments**

1. Each student will be required to submit a reflection paper after each volunteer session. Each reflection paper must be submitted via the course digital drop box upon completion of each volunteer session.
2. A one paragraph description of each student's photo essay topic is due on **September 20, 2007**. An outline of the essay and two annotations from recent (dated 2002 or later) research articles in refereed journals related to the topic are due on **October 23, 2007**.
3. During the last month of the course, each student will be required to make a five-minute presentation about his/her volunteer experience.
4. Each student will be required to compose a 5-7 page photo essay/research paper on themes related to the psychology of women that emerged during the volunteer experience. (Please see handout which discusses this assignment in more detail). The final paper is **due by the beginning of class on November 29, 2007**.

○ **Evaluations**

Each volunteer supervisor will be contacted by the instructor or the teaching assistant for the course and asked to complete a brief evaluation of the student's volunteer work. This evaluation will be submitted to the instructor of the course at the completion of the student's volunteer work.

Each student will complete an anonymous mid-term and end of semester course evaluation which includes questions about the civic engagement activity. The evaluation data will be made available to the Center for Civic Engagement upon completion of the course.

➤ **Alternative Civic Engagement Assignment:**

○ **Civic Engagement Research Paper**

1. Students who offer a valid objection to participating in the civic engagement activities as outlined above must complete a 10 – 15 page research paper on a civic engagement topic related to the psychology of women.
2. Research for this paper must include interviews with persons working in fields related to the psychology of women. Students must provide documentation of interviews completed with at least five persons who are working in the area of interest. Students must also complete reflection papers for each interview. Each reflection paper must be submitted via the course digital drop box upon completion of each interview.

3. Each student must provide documentation that s/he interviewed five professionals. Documentation must be signed by each person interviewed.
4. A one paragraph description of each student's research paper topic is due on **September 20, 2007**. An outline of the research paper and two annotations from recent (dated 2002 or later) research articles in refereed journals related to the topic are due on **October 23, 2007**.
5. During the last month of the course, each student who chooses the alternative civic engagement assignment will be required to make a five-minute presentation about his/her research paper.
6. The final paper is **due by the beginning of class on November 29, 2007**. (Please see handout which discusses this assignment in more detail).

➤ **Examinations**

There will be three examinations this semester. The exams will cover topics discussed in class as well as reading materials. Examinations will include both objective and essay items. The first exam will cover chapters one through six. The second exam will cover chapters seven through eleven. The third exam will cover chapters 12 through 17. Please see the course schedule for exam dates.

➤ **Grades** for the course will be earned by completing assignments and class participation. Each assignment/activity is worth 100 points.

- Reaction Paper 15 percent
- Exams 40 percent
- Civic Engagement Project 35 percent
 - Reflection Papers (10 points)
 - Topic Description (5 points)
 - Presentation (5 points)
 - Photo Essay (80 points)
- Attendance and class participation 10 percent

A+	=	95 – 100 percent
A	=	90 – 94 percent
B+	=	85 – 89 percent
B	=	80 – 84 percent
C+	=	75 – 79 percent
C	=	70 – 74 percent
D+	=	65 – 69 percent
D	=	60 – 64 percent
F	=	below 60 percent
FF	=	Failure/academic dishonesty

➤ ***S/U Policy***

Students who desire to take this course on an S/U basis must negotiate a contract in writing within the first three weeks of class (by **September 17, 2007**).

➤ ***Incomplete Grade Policy***

An “I” (Incomplete) grade indicates incomplete coursework and may be awarded to an undergraduate student only when a small portion of the student’s work is incomplete and only when the student is otherwise earning a passing grade.

➤ ***Late Assignment Policy***

Late assignments will not be accepted, except in extenuating circumstances.

➤ ***Absence Policy***

Excused absences include emergency illnesses, death of an immediate family member, school-sanctioned functions, and religious holidays. If you are absent due to an illness, you will need to provide verification of a visit to a medical provider when you return to class. Non-emergency excuses (e.g., being out of town, over-sleeping, etc.) will not be accepted. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance must provide advance notice (by **September 17, 2007**) of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing.

If a student desires to receive credit for excused absences, make-up assignments may be completed. Make-up assignments must be completed by the next day of class attendance. The make-up assignment for each missed class is the “Experience the Research” (Hyde, 2007) activity for the chapter discussed on the date of a student’s absence.

➤ ***Accommodation Policy***

Students with documented learning and/or physical disabilities in need of accommodation are encouraged to work with Student Disability Services and inform the instructor about any special requirements. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate students with documented disabilities.

➤ ***Academic Honesty Policy***

It is expected that all students will give their best effort in completing course requirements. Therefore, cheating will not be tolerated. If a student is caught cheating, especially in the form of plagiarism, the student will receive an F on the assignment, and possibly an F in the course. The student may also be suspended from the University.

➤ ***Academic Assistance***

Students will use *APA* format for all writing assignments. For additional assistance with course writing requirements and using *APA* style, please contact the Academic Success Center located in TER 301 or call (727) 873-4632 for more information.

➤ **Library Assistance**

For additional assistance with research requirements for the course, please contact the reference librarian located in POY 129 or call (727) 873-4081.

Course Schedule*

Week/Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment Due
Week 1: 08/28/07	Introduction(s) Syllabus	Syllabus	"A Woman Who Influenced Me"
Week 1: 08/30/07	<i>Tomboys! Feisty Girls & Spirited Women</i> Why Study the Psychology of Women?	Hyde, Chapter 1	
Week 2: 09/04/07	Theoretical Perspectives	Hyde, Chapter 2	
Week 2: 09/06/07	Theoretical Perspectives, cont'd	Hyde, Chapter 2	Volunteer Placements
Week 3: 09/11/07	Gender Stereotypes and Gender Differences	Hyde, Chapter 3	
Week 3: 09/13/07	Gender Stereotypes and Gender Differences, cont'd	Hyde, Chapter 3	
Week 4: 09/18/07	Women of Color	Hyde, Chapter 4 Morrison, "Intro. & Autumn"	
Week 4: 09/20/07	Women of Color, cont'd	Hyde, Chapter 4 Morrison, "Winter"	Photo Essay/Research Paper Topics
Week 5: 09/25/07	Gender and Language	Hyde, Chapter 5 Morrison, "Spring"	
Week 5: 09/27/07	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	Morrison, "Summer"	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> Reaction Paper
Week 6: 10/02/07	Gender and Emotion	Hyde, Chapter 6	
Week 6: 10/04/07	EXAM #1	Hyde, Chapters 1-6	EXAM #1
Week 7: 10/09/07	Lifespan Development	Hyde, Chapter 7	
Week 7: 10/11/07	Ability, Achievement, and Motivation	Hyde, Chapter 8	
Week 8: 10/16/07	Women and Work	Hyde, Chapter 9	
Week 9: 10/18/07	Biological Influences on Women's Behavior	Hyde, Chapter 10	

Week 10: 10/23/07	Biological Influences on Women's Behavior, cont'd	Hyde, Chapter 10	Photo Essay/Research Paper Outlines and Annotations
Week 10: 10/25/07	Psychology and Women's Health	Hyde, Chapter 11	
Week 11: 10/30/07	Psychology and Women's Health, cont'd	Hyde, Chapter 11	
Week 11: 11/01/07	EXAM #2	Hyde, Chapters 7-11	EXAM #2
Week 12: 11/06/07	Female Sexuality	Hyde, Chapter 12	
Week 12: 11/08/07	Female Sexuality, cont'd	Hyde, Chapter 12	
Week 13: 11/13/07	Lesbian and Bisexual Women	Hyde, Chapter 13	Presentations
Week 13: 11/15/07	Lesbian and Bisexual Women, cont'd		Presentations
Week 14: 11/20/07	The Victimization of Women	Hyde, Chapter 14	Presentations
Week 14: 11/22/07	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO CLASS		
Week 15: 11/27/07	Women, Mental & Spiritual Health	Hyde, Chapter 15	Presentations
Week 15: 11/29/07	Psychology of Men	Hyde, Chapter 16	Photo Essays/Research Papers Presentations
Week 16: 12/04/07	Looking Back and Looking Forward . . .	Hyde, Chapter 17	Presentations
Week 16: 12/06/07			
Week 17: 12/13/07	FINAL EXAM	Hyde, Chapters 12-17	EXAM #3

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