

PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN - Psyc 208/WS 385, Spring 1993

Dr. P. Owen-Smith

316 Seney

4-8322

Office Hrs.: 2:00-3:00 M,T,W,Th. (appointment recommended!)

Text: Matlin, M.W. (1987) THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN. New York:
Rinehart, and Winston

During the past two decades courses on women have appeared on campuses all over the country. Nurtured by the new feminism and its scholarship, they are bringing the experience of women out of the oblivion of neglect into the various disciplines. They are changing old biases and informing students with new insights and perspectives as well as generating further research.

Most of the research on the psychology of women has been done by women, an observation reminiscent of John Stuart Mill's prophetic comment in the SUBJECTION OF WOMEN over a hundred years ago that no understanding of women would ever be possible until women themselves began to tell what they know. Why did women wait so long? One reason, of course, was the dearth of women doing any kind of research. Another was that the definitions of what was important to study were made by men, and historically they did not include the psychology of women. The authenticity of women's knowledge about themselves and of the kinds of questions that science can ask about them is now beginning to be recognized. Women are assuming more instrumental and authoritative roles in seeking out answers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

1. exposure to current thought and research on issues concerning the psychology of women
2. development of a critical attitude toward the relationship between culture and knowledge, particularly where it concerns women
3. the understanding that "facts" change and develop from the context of cultural attitudes and values
4. an appreciation of the diversity, as well as the commonality, in women's lives

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REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

1. Attendance: Students should attend every class and actively participate in discussion. It is expected, therefore, that the student will have read all assigned materials PRIOR to class.
2. Exams: There will be a Midterm and Final Examination. Each exam will consist of both multiple choice and essay questions. The final exam will NOT be cumulative and will cover material since the midterm.
3. Literature Review: A review of a selected topic in the area of gender roles, psychology of women, etc. will be constructed by the student. Each student must make an appointment to discuss her/his literature review prior to submitting the review. There should be a minimum of 10 primary references and the review itself should be 15-20 pages in length. A typed working bibliography will be submitted at midsemester to the professor. The bibliography should consist of at least 10 primary references which are those that are being used in the construction of the final paper. A typed abstract of the final paper will be submitted two weeks prior to the submission of the final paper. The abstract should consist of a 4-5 sentence paragraph which summarizes the final paper. (See the attached pages for further information about the construction of the final paper as well as suggested topics.)
4. Journal Construction: A journal (i.e. spiral notebook) will be kept by each student for the purpose of recording a personal reaction(s) to a concept or notion presented in the lecture, in a film, by another student, or in the reading materials. Detailed information regarding journal construction will be given in class. Journals must include one entry per week. Journals will be submitted to the professor on a monthly basis (see dates on schedule).
5. Assigned Readings and Discussion: Ten scholarly papers critical to the course will be on reserve in the library. All students will read the paper assigned for a given day and will be prepared to discuss the respective paper in class. Two or three students, designated by the professor, will be responsible for leading the discussion on a given date so that all students at some point during the semester will have the opportunity to facilitate a class discussion.
6. Pop Quizzes: Six quizzes will be given on the library articles prior to their discussion. Students will not be advised as to when these quizzes will occur.

Grading will be as follows:

MIDTERM:	20%
FINAL	20%
LITERATURE REVIEW	20%
POP QUIZZES	10%
JOURNALS	10%
CLASS PARTICIPATION	10%
GROUP FACILITATION	10%

The plus-minus system will be utilized in the calculation of final grades.

The student Honor Code of Oxford College applies to every member of the class. This professor will not tolerate violations of this code under any circumstances!

COURSE SCHEDULE:

1/12, 1/14	Introduction: Matlin (Ch.1)
1/19, 1/21, 1/26	Theoretical Perspectives
1/28	READING 1, FEMINIST THEORY: A RADICAL AGENDA; PSYCHOLOGY RECONSTRUCTS THE FEMALE; & FEMINISM AND DIVERSITY IN PSYCHOLOGY: THE CASE OF WOMEN OF COLOR (3 articles)
2/2, 2/4	Prenatal development and infancy: Matlin (Ch.2)
2/9, 2/11	Childhood and Adolescence: Matlin (Ch.3)
2/16	READING 2, ARE MENSTRUATING WOMEN AT THE OF MERCY OF RAGING HORMONES; WHAT IS THIS PMS?; PREMENSTRUAL EMOTIONALITY: IS BIOLOGY DESTINY? (three articles) Matlin (Ch.4)
2/16	LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY!
2/18, 2/23	Love Relationships: Matlin (Ch.9)
2/25	READING 3, THERE IS NO HIERARCHY OF OPPRESSIONS; WHAT PRICE INDEPENDENCE? SOCIAL REACTIONS TO

LESBIANS, SPINSTERS, WIDOWS; &
NUNS (2 articles)

- 3/2 Sexuality: Matlin (Ch.10)
- 3/4 MIDTERM EXAMINATION!
- 3/8 - 3/12 SPRING BREAK!
- 3/16, 3/18 Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Motherhood
Matlin (Ch.11)
- 3/18 READING 4, MOTHERHOOD: CONTEMPORARY
CONFLICT FOR WOMEN; LESBIAN
MOTHERS: PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSUMPTIONS
IN FAMILY LAW (2 articles)
- 3/23 Later Adulthood: Matlin (Ch.14)
- 3/23 READING 5, MENOPAUSE:A JOURNEY HOMEWARD;
THE DOUBLE STANDARD: AGE; THE
INTERNALIZATION OF POWERLESSNESS
(3 articles)
- 3/25 Achievement motivation and Achievement
attitudes; Women & Work:
Matlin, (Chs. 5 & 6)
- 3/30 NO CLASS !
WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE!
- 4/1 READING 6, EMPLOYMENT AND WOMEN'S HEALTH
(1 article)
- 4/6, 4/8 Sex differences/similarities & gender
stereotypes: Matlin (Chs. 7 & 8)
- 4/8 READING 7, FEMALE AND MALE; ISSUES OF
GENDER (1 article)
- 4/8 ABSTRACT DUE!
- 4/13, 4/15 Women & Psychological Disorders:
Matlin (Ch. 12)
- 4/15 READING 8, WOMEN'S HEALTH (1 article)
- 4/20, 4/22 Violence against women: Matlin (Ch.13)
4/22 READING 9, PSYCHOLOGY AND VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN; PORNOGRAPHY: NOT
A MORAL ISSUE (2 articles)
- 4/22 LITERATURE REVIEW DUE!

4/27 Retrospect & Prospect:Feminism Revisited

Journal entries will be submitted on the following dates.
NO JOURNALS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DESIGNATED DATE!!!

1/28	3 entries	4/1	4 entries
2/25	4 entries	4/27	4 entries

NOTES ON THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF YOUR PAPERS

1. All papers (Journals not included) must be typed. A word processor is acceptable and encouraged. The acceptable style is one which includes double spacing on standard 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper. A 1 inch margin at the bottom and on both sides of the paper and 1 1/2 inch at the top of all pages is required. Staple the pages together. DO NOT USE FOLDERS OF ANY TYPE!
2. The paper should reflect clear, correct writing. The use of a dictionary is always recommended. Your paper's style must be in compliance with the American Psychological Association Publication Manual (3rd ed.). A copy of this manual is on reserve in the library or you may purchase a copy in the library. If there is doubt about the use of grammar, punctuation, or capital letters, you are expected to consult a good reference book as well as the APA Publication Manual.
3. Review each sentence to make certain that it makes sense and that one sentence logically follows the preceding one.
4. Be certain that all paragraph breaks are appropriate.
5. A cover page should be the first page of the paper and include the following identifying information:
 - a. Name
 - b. Course title and Number
 - c. Title of Paper
 - d. Date of Submission
6. All errors must be neatly corrected by erasing cleanly or by using correction tape, ribbon, or fluid. Strikeovers are not acceptable. If you have the paper in final form and you detect any omission errors, you do not have to retype the page. Simply make the correction neatly in ink. Of course, this type of addition should be minimized. Remember that a manuscript authored by you is a reflection of you. Therefore, avoid papers that are smudged, tattered, and dirty.
7. Use non-sexist language in your paper. Consult the American Psychological Association Publication Manual (3rd Edition) for assistance in the use of non-sexist language.
8. No papers will be accepted after the designated date! and are due at the beginning of the class on the designated date.

Appropriate and helpful journals that can aid you in the construction of your paper:

- Feminist Studies
- Psychology of Women Quarterly
- Sex Roles: A Journal of Research Signs
- Women and Health
- Women and Therapy
- Women's Studies Abstracts
- Women's Studies International Forum

The following topics are those which would be appropriate for your paper. Of course, you might select another topic not on this list. If so, please be certain to speak with me before you begin your library research.

- The Women's Health Movement
- Menstrual Disorders
- Menopausal Disorders
- The Timing of Motherhood
- Gender Stereotyping in Children's Literature
- Lesbian Mothering
- The New Reproductive Technologies
- Marital Roles and Mental Illness
- Sex Differences in Patterns of Mental Disorders
- Feminist Psychotherapy
- Alcoholism and Women
- Homeless Women
- Depression in Women
- Eating Disorders
- Rape
- Incest
- Disabled Women
- Ethnic Minority Women
- Poor Women
- Cross Cultural Comparisons of Puberty Rites
- Language and Gender Roles
- Sex Role Stereotyping in the Schools
- Battered Women
- Gender Bias in Science
- Women in Historical Importance in Psychology
- Contributions of Women to Psychology
- Theories of Female Sexuality
- Research and Attitudes Toward Virginity
- Dual Career Families
- Deinstitutionalization and Women
- Biological Influences on Human Sex and Gender
- Widowhood
- Native American Women
- Feminist Mothers
- Sex Bias in Psychotherapy
- Sex Differences in Cognitive Functioning
- Miscarriage
- Maternal Employment and Child Care