

Psychology of Women

PSY 326

Fall 2004

9:30 – 10:45 T Th

108 Benton

Name	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Amanda Diekman	diekmaa@muohio.edu	110B Benton	529-2402	T 1:45 – 3:45, or by appointment
April Dye	dyeak@muohio.edu	62B Benton	529-0158	W 1:00 – 3:00

Goals

- To introduce you to the scientific evidence and theory about the psychology of women
- To cultivate your abilities to think critically, to formulate arguments, and to express your ideas
- To enable you to understand and appreciate the challenges surrounding changing gender roles

Materials (all required)

Textbooks: Roberts, T. (2004). *Lanahan Readings in the Psychology of Women* (2nd edition). Lanahan. (Note: The first edition contains many different readings than the second edition. The second edition is required for the class.)

Reserve readings: Any readings that are listed by the author's last name on the syllabus are available through electronic reserve. Password is diek326.

Course website: On the Blackboard server, accessible through mymiami.muohio.edu. If you are enrolled in the course, PSY326 should appear on your list of courses in Blackboard. You must be able to access this website for assignments, announcements, and grades.

Policies

Respect for others: I respect each of you as a student who can bring a unique perspective to the study of gender. I expect that you will respect my goals, which are listed above, and I expect that similar respect will be given to the teaching assistant, guest lecturers, and your fellow students. Because of the nature of this class, we will be discussing some controversial topics that are potentially challenging to people's beliefs and values. Everyone has the right to express his or her opinion, and this right will be strictly upheld in all class-related activities. At the same time, we will maintain an atmosphere of intellectual respect for the opinions of others, no matter how they might differ from our own.

Attendance: Your attendance is expected at each class, and participation points can only be earned by being present in class. Any behavior that disrupts the ability of the class to learn (e.g., late arrival, cell phone ringing, etc.) will detract from your grade.

Late assignments: No makeup exams will be given (see Exams below), and reading questions will not be accepted after class on the day they are due. Other work will be penalized 5% for every business day late.

Academic honesty: Cooperative work will be part of this class; however, it is expected that anything you specify as your own work is truly your own work. Dishonesty in academic work and the penalties for such dishonesty are outlined in the Student Handbook. Please review the policy:

http://www.miami.muohio.edu/documents_and_policies/handbook/academic_regulations/acadregspv.cfm
Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for this course, as well as the AD designation on your transcript.

EVALUATION

Grade	Points possible	Points earned
Class engagement		
Participation	50	
Reading questions	50	
Leading discussion	20	
Subtotal for participation	120	
Projects		
Data collection project A	40	
Data collection project B	40	
Romance novel project	40	
Subtotal for projects	120	
Exams		
Midterm	50	
Final exam	50	
Subtotal for exams	100	
Total points possible	340	

Your grade is your total points earned divided by the total points possible. All letter grades are assigned on a straight scale without rounding. (So 89.5% is a B, not an A.)

If you wish to protest a grade that you received, you need to turn in a formal proposal explaining the question or assignment, your answer, and why you should receive credit. This proposal must be turned into Dr. Diekman within 3 weeks of the due date of the assignment. No grades will be revised after this time period.

Participation. This course will be based primarily on interactive discussions; in order for this class to succeed, each of us needs to be prepared to engage the readings and topics each class period. Listening and speaking are both critical parts of class participation.

Reading questions. Once per week, you will be required to turn in typewritten questions or thoughts *based on the readings assigned for that day*. These reactions should reflect your thoughts or be intended to stimulate further discussion. Each student's portfolio of questions will be graded at middle and the end of the semester. Questions are due once per week, on Tuesdays if your last name begins with A – L and Thursdays if your last name begins with M - Z. If class is cancelled or there are no readings for the day you normally turn in questions, they are due the alternate day (e.g., on Thursday if class is cancelled on Tuesday. If you will be missing class, you can turn in hard copies of questions to Dr. Diekman's mailbox before the class that they are due. Late, handwritten, or emailed questions will not be accepted.

Leading discussions. Each student will be responsible for leading one class discussion. It is not your responsibility to summarize the readings or to teach others about them. Instead, you should come up with a plan to guide the discussion for that day: What are the important contributions of these readings, how do they relate to each other, and how do they relate to other topics we have discussed? Excellent discussion leaders frequently bring in current events and outside resources. If you share this responsibility with another student in the course, you can divide up the work in any way that results in an equal burden and is mutually agreeable.

Projects

You will be required to complete three projects during the semester. Two of these will be data collection projects: Project A is to be selected from the projects before the midterm, and Project B after the midterm. For these projects, you will collect data or engage in an activity outside of class, write a paper summarizing what you did, and report your experience to the class. Topics will be chosen at the beginning of the semester, and details are available on the course website. For the other project, you will read a romance novel and write a 4-5 page essay analyzing the gender role messages portrayed in the novel (details will be available later).

Exams

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Makeup exams will not be available unless approved by Dr. Diekman; makeup exams are typically only granted in cases of documented illness or family emergency.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Fall 2004

Note on the schedule: These assignments and deadlines on this schedule are subject to change. If there are discrepancies between this syllabus and the website or announcements made in class, the website & class announcements take precedence. Additional readings will be available on reserve or in class.

L = Lanahan reader. Numbers refer to reading number, not page or chapter number. Readings listed by the author’s last name are available through electronic reserve. See the Blackboard site for project assignments.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Projects
1	8/24	Introductions, <i>5 Girls</i> video		
	8/26	<i>5 Girls</i> video	Neuborne	
2	8/31	Childhood	L1, L38	Violate a gender norm
	9/2	Childhood	L2	Content analysis at toy store
3	9/7	NO CLASS – switch day		
	9/9	Adolescence	L3, L19	Observations - adolescents
4	9/14	Ageing	L4	Interview over 55
	9/16	Embodied selves	L5-6	Body satisfaction
5	9/21	Gendered images	Davies et al.	Content analysis of TV
	9/23	Gendered images	L7	
6	9/28	Social behavior	L8; L38	Observations - social behavior
	9/30	Sexuality	L9-10	
7	10/5	Sexuality	L11-12	Accuracy of sexuality beliefs
	10/7	Sexuality: theories	L35-36	
8	10/12	Midterm exam		
	10/14	Sexual orientation: video		
9	10/19	Reproductive health	L13-14	
	10/21	Childbirth & parenthood	L15-16; Hudepohl	
10	10/26	Relationship scripts		Romance novel paper due
	10/28	Relationships	L17-18	Personal ads
11	11/2	<i>Rosie the Riveter</i> (Election Day)		
	11/4	Friendships	Reeder	Interview about friendships
12	11/9	Work	L20-21	Nontraditional jobs
	11/11	Family work	L22 & Hoffnung	Multiple roles

PSY 326: Course schedule continued (November 16 – December 15)**L = Lanahan reader.**

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Projects
13	11/16	Mental health: depression	L23	Coping
	11/18	Mental health: diagnosis and treatment	L24-25	
14	11/23	Mental health: eating disorders	Brown; Pipher	
	11/25	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving		
15	11/30	Violence against women: rape	L26, 28	Sexual aggression in videos
	12/2	Violence: sexual harassment	L27	
16	12/7	Social change	L29; Aronson	
	12/9	Social change	Swim & Hyers	Activism
Finals week		Final exam (required)		