



**PSYC 4600 / WMST 4250 Psychology of Women
Spring 2008 T-TH 11-12:15**

Course Objectives

The most important goal of this class is to enable students to develop a better appreciation of the similarities and differences between the sexes and how those differences affect your life and the lives of others. This course will help students understand the causes and consequences of behaviors and experiences through social and personal structures, processes, and dynamics that account for women's actions, beliefs, and feelings. This course will also help students understand how the culture and time period in history have shaped our current patterns of thought about interactions with women.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. describe classic and current theories regarding the psychological development and socialization of girls and women;
2. articulate the main points related to social construction of gender and gender-related differences in behavior;
3. critically evaluate psychological theory and research examining gender-related differences in a variety of areas, including cognitive abilities and social behavior;
4. describe the biological bases of human sexual development, particularly as they relate to cultural constructions of gender; and
5. understand and articulate the interactive influence of race, ethnicity, and class on girls' and women's psychological development across the life-span.

Instructor

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Required Texts

1. Hyde, J.S. (2007). 7th edition. *Half the Human Experience*. Houghton Mifflin.
2. Primis customized reader for this class (available at the UGA Bookstore)
3. Other readings as assigned.

Course Grading

Your grade will consist of four equally-weighted exams (80%) and in-class small group exercises (20%; two will be graded each at 10%). The final exam is cumulative. Make up exams are not granted except for rare emergencies.

Grading will occur on the plus-minus system. To succeed, this course requires on-going participation by all members. To be familiar with the topic under discussion, you must read the assignments before class and be prepared to participate in class discussions and group activities. Personalizing the issues will not only help you retain the information presented, but will also enable you to look at the world from a much broader, more informed perspective. You must make an effort to attend every class. Excessive absences will result in points deducted from your grade.

Papers or other written materials should follow APA guidelines. Purdue University has a good web link for APA format guidelines:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html

Projects will be evaluated for content, grammatical accuracy, and ability to relate your topic to the psychology of women. Students are expected to adhere to UGA policies for academic honesty. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade. *A Culture of Honesty*, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at

<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

January 8	Introduction Hyde: Chapter 1
10 (Drop/add ends January 10)	History of Women's Role Primis Reading: Introduction to a Feminist Psyc of Women
15	Theories of Sex Typing Hyde: Chapter 2
17	Begin Unconscious Images of the Sexes Hyde: Chapter 3 Primis Reading: Cognition and Bias
22	Learning Through Gender Roles and Stereotypes Primis Reading: Are American Values Shaped by the Mass Media? Video: <i>Killing Us Softly 3</i>
24	Continue discussion on stereotypes
29	Gender Differences in Communication Hyde: Chapter 5 Primis Reading: Do Women and Men Communicate Differently?
31	Continue Communication Review for exam if needed

February 5	EXAM I
7	Cultural Aspects of Gender CNN Documentary: <i>Behind the Veil</i>
12	Biological Differences Hyde: Chapter 10
14	Continue Biological Differences Group Exercise on Female Circumcision Primis Readings: Circumcision of Girls and Is Female Circumcision Universally Wrong?
19	Finish Group Exercise on circumcision
21	Gender and Emotions Hyde: Chapter 6
26	Women and AIDS Guest speaker from UGA Health Center (tentative)
28	Gay and Lesbian Relationships Hyde: Chapter 13 Primus Reading: Should We Allow Same Sex Marriages?
March 4	Group Dynamics Primis Reading on Group Think
6	EXAM II
10-14	Spring Break Have Fun!
18	Women and Violence Hyde: Chapter 14 Video: <i>Battered</i>
20	continue discussion on violence Primis Reading: A Rapist Gets Caught in the Act
25	Achievement Motivation and Androgyny Hyde: Chapter 8
27	continue Achievement Motivation and Androgyny
April 1	Cosmetic Surgery Begin group activity on breast implants

- 3 continue group activity on breast implants
- 8 Gender in the Classroom and Title IX in Athletics
Reading on Title IX
- 10 Women and Work
Hyde: Chapter 9
- 15 Sexual Harassment and Chilly Climate
Reading: Is the Wage Gap Justified?
- 17 women and work group activity on wage gap
- 22 Wrap Up: Where Do We Go From Here?
Hyde: Chapters 16 & 17
- 24 Exam III
- April 29 Reading Day – no class
- April 30 – May 6 Final Exam (as scheduled)