

Syllabus

Psychology of Women, Spring 2006

(50:830:303:40)

Index Number: 74701

Course Location: Science Lecture Hall

Meeting Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30 - 2:50

Professor: Dr. Adelson

Office hours: Thursday 4:20 - 6:20

Location: Armitage 311

Best way to reach me:

email: adelson@camden.rutgers.edu

- **Exam dates: Feb 9, Mar 23, and Apr 20.**
- **This syllabus may change.**
 - **If so, new versions will be sent to you.**
 - **You are responsible for being current.**

Readings

(Bookstore phone no.: 856.968.1200)

- From Rutgers' Bookstore: Matlin. The Psychology of Women (required)
- From Rutgers' Bookstore: Jamieson. Beyond the Double Bind ((optional))
- From Rutgers' library: To be assigned as part of homework.
(See class schedule, last page.)

Course Description: Goal, Motivation & Theme

In this course we will look at a set of major issues of concern to both men and women in today's society. They have been chosen because they both affect our lives and allow us to look at psychology from a perspective that gives us a more full picture of the human psyche.

Note: The perspective we will take is one of growth and change. For each topic we will ask how it affects us and what can we do to meet these challenges?

Requirements: Not graded

1. **Keeping current with the syllabus:** This syllabus will help you stay on track and stay organized. Refer to it at least weekly. It will make your experience in this class more effective.
 - **Also note: This syllabus may change as class needs change. You are responsible for this syllabus and any updates.**
2. **Keeping current with your email:** Your email must be listed with RUCS (help@camden.rutgers.edu). I will be sending you information via email, you are responsible for keeping up with it.
3. **Gender construction exercise:** We will begin each meeting with a short, pleasant breath-based exercise. We will use this to explore constructions of gender, but it takes a few weeks to get the hang of it. It may not be something you are familiar with, but hey, that's why you are here. (It's quite rare, but if you have a problem with this see me privately after class and we will make other arrangements.)

Requirements: Graded

1. **In-class exams. (Each is worth 25% of your grade.)**
 - please see:
<http://www.camden.rutgers.edu/RUCAM/info/Academic-Integrity-Policy.html>
 - There will be three in-class multiple choice exams.

- **The dates are Feb 9, Mar 23, and Apr 20.**

- (a) There are **no make up exams**. Exceptions cannot be made because this would mean some students might have a more lax grading criterion than others.
- (b) **Excused absences on exams:**
 - i. **No student can have more than one excused exam absence per semester, for any reason, so use them sparingly.**
 - **Any test missed, for any reason excused or otherwise, after the first excused one gets a zero.**
 - ii. Documented illness or documented family emergency are the only bases for the first excused absence. Vacations, no matter how badly needed; weddings or family events; and business trips are all examples of excluded reasons.
 - If you fall into the category of excluded reasons, although I am personally supportive, I cannot change the policy, so you might want to make other arrangements. The decision is up to you, but these are the consequences, please plan ahead.
 - iii. If you are excused, I will **average the grades on the exams you have taken**. I will ask you to do an assignment as well. It will be on the material you would have been tested on and will take the same amount of time as it would have taken you to study. It is your responsibility to arrange this with me at the time you request the absence.

2. **Class participation (25% of your grade):**

- (a) **Homework:**

Look at the schedule for each week (Page 7).
 Homework questions and any outside readings are listed there.
 Before class, read and think about all of them. Write out a one page answer to **one**.
 Students will discuss their answers as part of class discussion, they will not be collected, but they will affect your participation grade.

(b) **How to approach the class meetings and homework: Before and in class**

- For the one page answers: Relate what you just read to what you read before and to the outside readings.
Choose the question which really interests you, not the first one you see.
- Jot down questions: When you are in class, ask for clarification of a difficult or seemingly inconsistent piece of information.
- Notice what questions the reading leaves unanswered/think about ideas for further research.
- Offer a comment which continues the thread of the discussion (Whether extending upon a previous comment or *respectfully and constructively* disagreeing with a previous comment.)

(c) It's worth 25%:

- If you participate, if you are constructive, if you love learning it will raise your grade.
- This means you must take some initiative and help to construct a positive atmosphere in the class.

Demos/Projects: For extra credit/affects class participation grade

- Your book is filled with demos, experiments and illustrative resource material. This is a great way for us to work together and make classes even more lively. We'll have one or two for each meeting.
- We will develop a schedule over the next few weeks.
- **Worth 2 extra pts on your most recent exam. Maximum: 2 per student.**
- **Must be arranged by March 1.**
- **Grading scheme:**
Your final grade will be computed by averaging your grades on the exams and adding in your class participation points if you have received any.
Your final grade will be computed on the following scale.

100 - 90 = A (4.0)
85 - 89 = B+ (3.5)
80 - 84 = B (3.0)
75 - 79 = C+ (2.5)
70 - 74 = C (2.0)
69 - 60 = D (1.0)
 < 60 = F (0.0)

- **Class behavior regulations:**

There are certain expectations that I have concerning students who take my courses. My experience is that classes function best when students abide by these expectations. They are:

1. You are expected to come to class on time.
 - I will not allow students to walk into class late.
This can be very distracting.
 - Also, if you come to class, you are expected to stay for the entire class period unless you seek permission beforehand.
2. If you attend class, you are expected to pay attention to the lecture and discussion. In large classes students feel anonymous and there is a tendency to interact with friends. Again, this can be very distracting.
3. If you must use the facilities during class you must not walk in front of the speaker or allow the door to slam on entering and exiting.
4. You may not use electronic devices without permission and then only to record class notes.
5. You may not engage in any behavior that detracts from the class learning experience.

- **Penalties for violations:**

- Students who violate these rules will be warned for the first violation.
- A second violation will result in a 5-point deduction from an exam.
- Any subsequent violation will result in the loss of a letter grade on the course.

Schedule

- **Week of Jan 17:**
Course business and Introduction
Matlin. Chapter 1. History, Issues, Themes
- **Week of Jan 24:**
Social construct exercises
Matlin. Chapter 2. Gender-typing
Homework choices: Pages 69 - 70: Questions: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7.
- **Week of Jan 31:**
Matlin. Chapter 3. Infancy and Childhood
Homework choices: Page 106: Questions: 2, 6
- **Week of Feb 7:**
Review Feb 7. **Feb 9. Exam 1: Matlin Chap. 1-3.**
- **Week of Feb 14:**
Special guests re library research
Film on social construction of gender. – Student led discussion.
- **Week of Feb 21:**
Matlin. Chapter 4. Adolescence
Focus on the work of Don Norman
Homework choices: Page 139 - 140: Questions: 3, 5, 7
- **Week of Feb 28:**
Matlin. Chapter 5. Cognitive Abilities, Technology & Attitudes about Success
Focus on the work of Don Norman
Homework choices: Page 169: Questions: 2, 4, 9, 10

**Always
include
outside
reading
with
home-
work
from
2/28
on.**

- **Week of Mar 7:**
Matlin. Chapter 6. Gender Comparisons in Social and Personality Characteristics
 Homework choices: Page 203- 204: Questions: 3, 5, 10

- **Week of Mar 14:**
 Spring break

- **Week of Mar 21:**
 Review Mar 21. **Mar 23. Exam 2: Matlin Chap. 4-6.**

- **Week of Mar 28:**
Matlin. Chapter 7. Women and Work.
 Homework choices: Page 241-2: Questions: 4, 6, 7, 9

- **Week of Apr 4:**
Matlin. Chapter 8. Love Relationships.
 Homework choices: Page 283: 2, 4, 6, 9, 10.

- **Week of Apr 11:**
 Apr 11: Film: On adolescent development and family relationships.
 Apr 13: Library research

- **Week of Apr 18**
 Review April 18. **Apr 20. Exam 3: Matlin Chap. 7, 8.**

- **Week of Apr 25:**
 Lecture, student presentations of demos and class discussion.

- Finals week meeting: **IN ARMITAGE 311.**
 Thursday, May 4, 2-5 pm
 Hand in & discuss outstanding homework essays.