PSYCH 346: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN
Summer 2008
M-F 12:10pm - 1:10pm
Lago E 0165

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Readings:

Prerequisites:
Psychology 101 and another course in psychology (excluding Psych 131)

Overview:
Is it really true that men and women are “from different planets”? How are men and women the same? Are those differences meaningful? How does psychology help us understand the unique experiences of women? This course is designed to explore the ways gender is researched, explained, and the consequences for those explanations.

Course Objectives:
• To help students integrate new information on gender with other knowledge of psychology and other disciplines.
• To learn to recognize gender similarities as well as differences, the degree of any such differences, and to appreciate multiple potential causes for those differences.
• To learn to critically think about reports of gender differences, both in research and in the popular media.
• To help students integrate new information on gender with other knowledge of psychology.

Course Format and Expectations:
Class time will be devoted to a variety of teaching and learning activities. A central component of every class will be the discussion of the readings and the questions that arise in the course of the lecture or course presentations. Our class time will be much more beneficial and informative if everyone reads the assigned readings in advance and comes to class ready to discuss the material or other assignments that may be made. The instructor reserves the option to give unannounced quizzes on readings for the class period, which may not be made up if a student is absent.
It is expected that everyone (students and instructor) will be treated with respect. This is especially important during class discussions. Class members are expected to listen to and respect the opinions of others in the class. Disagreements are expected, but should be expressed with openness and tolerance. Please make sure your electronic devices are turned off during class. It is acceptable to eat and drink during class so long as it does not become a disruption. Class will start on time every day, and you are expected to arrive on time.

**Grading:**
Your grade will be based on 2 exams, several short papers and assignments, in-class assignments, and quizzes.

1. **Class attendance and participation (50 pts).** You are expected to read and think about the assigned materials prior to class. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Unannounced quizzes and in-class writing assignments will be used to evaluate class participation and student preparation.

2. **Homework and other papers/assignments (100 pts).** A few papers/assignments will be assigned at different points during the semester. These assignments are intended to either bring a topic to life or to help you master the content of the course. Other short homework assignments are designed to facilitate class discussion and presentations. *More information about the assignments will be discussed in class.*

3. **Exams (100 + 100 = 200 pts).** There will be two multiple choice exams in this course. You are expected to take the exams during the designated exam time. No late or makeup exams will be given without a serious, documentable reason. On exam days, once the first person has left the exam, no late-comers will be allowed to enter the room. In the rare occurrence of a makeup exam, the makeup exam will be formatted differently from the original and may be composed of essay and short answer items.

4. **Extra credit.** There will be two options to earn up to 7 extra credit points. The first option will be to participate in a research study regarding intuitive eating and the second option will entail writing a 3 page, double-spaced reaction paper on a topic relevant to the course. Topics must be approved by the instructor before they will be accepted for credit.

**Grading Policy:**

Final course grades will be based on the total number of points that a student has accumulated during the class. The highest number of points earned by a student in the class will be counted as 100%. Each person’s percentage score will be his or her total number of points earned divided by the highest total. Using this grading system, there is theoretically no upper limit on the number of As or Bs in this class and there do not have to be any Ds or Fs. You are competing only with yourself and not with other class members. The assignment of letter grades will be based on the following ranges:

- A = 93-100%
- A- = 90-92%
- B+ = 87-89%
- B = 82-86%
- B- = 79-81%
- C+ = 76-78%
- C = 71-75%
- C- = 68-70%
- D+ = 65-67%
- D = 60-64%
- D- = 57-59%
- F = 0-57%
If you would like to contest a grade on one of your assignments or exams, please put in writing what you think was misgraded and why you believe you deserve additional credit. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a course grade of “F”. A student found responsible for academic dishonesty or academic misconduct is subject to appropriate academic penalty; to be determined by the instructors of the course, as well as sanctions under the university Student Disciplinary Regulations. If you have any questions about academic dishonesty, please see ISU’s policy at: http://www.public.iastate.edu/~catalog/2007-2009/geninfo/dishonesty.html

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Resources (DR) office, main floor of the Students Services Building, Room 1076, 515-294-7220.