

Department: PSYC / WS

Course No.: 3102 W [246W]

Credits: 3

Title: Psychology of Women

Contact: John Rickards

Content Area: CA4 Diversity and Multiculturalism

Diversity: CA4 Non-International

WQ: W

Catalog Copy: PSYC 246W Psychology of Women. Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: Three credits of 200-level psychology. Crawford Gender roles, socialization, women and work, women's relationships, violence against women and other topics. Theory and research.

Course Information:

A. This course aims to integrate the experiences of diverse women into psychological theory and research. Historically, women, and particularly women of color, have been neglected as subjects of psychological inquiry and creators of scientific knowledge in psychology. A focus on women and gender facilitates a critique of existing knowledge and the generation of more inclusive methods, theories, and research.

B. Students read a standard comprehensive text and a collection of point-of-view essays. The three exams are in multiple choice and essay format. Writing assignments are varied. WebCT discussion groups provide the opportunity for informal expression of opinion. Weekly one-page essays are a forum for

reactions to the textbook topics. Two research papers are submitted in draft form and revised following instructor review. Together, these writing assignments exceed the 15-page requirement; at least 15 pages are rewritten in response to instructor feedback. Students must pass the writing component of the course in order to pass the course.

C. Major topics in order of presentation are: an introduction to the history and development of feminist psychology; images and stereotypes of women; the measurement and interpretation of sex differences; gender as a cognitive schema; gender and social power; lifespan development of women (childhood, adolescence, adulthood, aging); gender roles (marriage, motherhood); sexuality; work and achievement. All are presented cross-culturally to the extent that research is available, and with attention to the diversity of women's experiences according to race/ethnicity, social class, and other social markers.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed.:

3. Acquiring critical judgment. A focus on the perspective of historically neglected groups in psychology fosters critical thinking about the (usually unscrutinized ) assumptions of the discipline, and more generally, fosters critical thinking about the socially constructed nature of scientific knowledge.

6. Consciousness of the diversity of human culture and experience. Much of social science has taken male experience as normative in theory building and the conduct of empirical research. However, the past thirty years have produced an explosion of scholarship on women and gender. This course integrates that scholarship into the psychology curriculum.

7. A working knowledge of processes of knowledge acquisition. This course critically scrutinizes psychological research methods and demonstrates the value of innovative methods for studying the experiences of under-represented groups.

CA4 Criteria: This course meets Criteria 1 ,2 and 5 for diversity and multiculturalism. By focusing on women, it emphasizes the diversity of psychological experience. By critically scrutinizing the production of psychological knowledge, it emphasizes that science is conducted by human beings who are necessarily affected by their own social position with respect to gender, race, and social class. By analyzing the position of women as a socially subordinated group, it increases students' awareness of how social and political power shape intergroup relations.