**Psychology of Women**

**PSYS 324: Section 004**

**T/Th 9:30-10:45am – 039 North Quad**

**Spring Term 2017**

**Instructor:** Katie Lawson, Ph.D  **Email:** kmlawson4@bsu.edu **Phone:** 765.285.1706

**Office:** 113 North Quad **Office Hours:** Tuesday 11:15-12:15, Wednesday 10:45-11:25, and by appointment

**GTA:** Jordyn Grimes **GTA Email:** jordyngrimes@bsu.edu

**UTA:** Wanyé Thomas **UTA Email:** wdthomas2@bsu.edu

**Required Text**:Lips, H. M. (2017). *A New Psychology of Women: Gender, Culture, & Ethnicity* (4th ed.). Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press, Inc.

**Prerequisites**: PSYS 100

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the field of the psychology of women. The first portion of the class will lay the foundation for understanding research on women, including basic definitions of concepts like gender norms and stereotypes, theoretical perspectives on sex and gender, and research methodologies. The rest of the class will focus on a range of social, biological, and psychological topics surrounding women, including social behavior and experiences, sexual lives, mental and physical health, childhood experiences, relationships with family members, power, leadership, and achievement, workplace issues, and justice, equity, and social change.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:

* Critically evaluate gender norms, stereotypes, and research on gender
* Apply theoretical perspectives on sex and gender to women’s issues
* Compare their own ideas about topics on sex and gender to empirically based research
* Describe the role of context in women’s experiences
* Identify and critique gendered themes and content in the media, including the possible implications of the content for men and women
* Apply course content to everyday experiences

**Class Mechanics:**

Incomplete PowerPoint slides will be provided online prior to class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire the course notes from a classmate. I do not give out completed course notes. If you have specific questions about the class notes you have obtained, I will be more than happy to go over that material with you.

Lectures cannot cover every topic contained in the assigned readings. Therefore, some of the material you read in the text will not be dealt with in class. This does not mean that the material is unimportant-only that there is not enough time to cover it in class. Also, there will sometimes be things covered in lecture that are not in the text. *You should pay attention to both the text material and the lecture material in your studying. All information is fair game for exams!*

Cellular Phone Policy – Your cell phone should be stored away during class. Once class begins, I do not want to see or hear cell phones.

Laptop Policy – Laptops are allowed in class. If you are caught using your laptop for non-academic purposes, your laptop privileges will be taken away.

**Course Evaluation:**

**1. Exams.** The exams will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions based on the material in the textbook and class lectures. There will be a total of three exams in the class. The first two exams will be administered via Blackboard in the computer-based testing labs. Information about lab locations, hours, and procedures is located at: http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/labs/computerbasedtesting. Because you will be given 4 days to complete the exam in the lab, no make-up exams will be allowed. The third exam will be administered in class on the final exam day.

**2. Assignments.** A total of 6 assignments will be due throughout the course of the semester. You are required to complete 5 out of the 6 assignments. In order to receive credit, you must be present at the beginning of class to turn in the assignment on the due date. If you are worried about losing points, please monitor your absences and save them for the kinds of serious situations, such as illness, that require you to be absent. The assignments are listed below. Each assignment is worth 20 points.

Completed?

1. Bem-Sex Role Inventory

2. Gender Norm Violation

3. Social Behavior and Theory

4. Panti Reflection

5. Childhood Movie

6. Sex Worker Laws \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It is your responsibility to keep track of your assignment completion – I recommend using the checklist above. If you complete more than the required amount of assignments (5 out of 6), the lowest score will be dropped. No late assignments are accepted.

**3. Impact Paper**. The impact paper is a one-page reflection paper structured similar to the assignments and due the last day of class. Directions will be given in class. You can turn the impact paper in late – up to one day – for a 25% reduction in your score.

**4. Media Discussion Leaders.** In groups of 3-5, you will find media content (e.g., YouTube video, podcast, TV show clip, music video) on a specified topic related to course content (you will sign up for the topic at the beginning of the semester). In class, you will present the media content and lead a discussion on the topic. Further directions will be provided early in the semester.

**5. Quizzes.** There will be 6 in-class quizzes (each worth 10 points). These quizzes will be based on readings or videos assigned prior to class. In order to make-up an in-class quiz, you must contact me prior to missing class, provide me with documentation for the absence, I must deem it an excused absence (e.g., sleeping through class is not an excused absence), and you must complete an additional reflection paper (in addition to the missed quiz) to be completed in the time frame we discuss when you first provide me with documentation. Part of the learning experiences from the quizzes stem from the discussions that occurs in class. The additional reflection paper is designed to make sure that you are not missing out on a learning experience due to being absent.

**6. Content Analysis/Group Presentation.** In groups of 3-5, you will examine a set of materials (e.g., television programs, children’s stories, music videos, popular songs) for a particular theme or set of themes relevant to a topic in the psychology of women. Your group will submit a library hand-out and a content analysis proposal during the semester so that I can give you feedback on your project. Your group will present your findings to the class near the end of the semester. Each member of the group must participate in presenting the material. Further directions will be provided early in the semester.

**7. Participation Points.** In order to get the most out of this course, class participation is crucial. Because of this, a total of 25 participation points will be counted towards your final grade. The points will be based on whether or not you are contributing during class discussions (e.g., media discussions). The following general rubric will be used to assess contributions during class:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description of Contributions in Class | Points Received |
| Consistently is engaged in class material, contributes meaningful comments/observations/questions, and is prepared for class | 25/25 |
| Is sometimes engaged in class material, makes some meaningful comments/observations/questions, and is sometimes prepared for class | 12.5/25 |
| Consistently is NOT engaged in class material, rarely contributes meaningful comments/observations/questions, and is not prepared for class | 0/25 |

In addition, if you don’t attend class, it will negatively impact your grade. At the beginning of every class, i-clickers will be used to assess attendance. There is no need to show me excused absence slips if you did not miss a quiz. If you miss 0-2 days, you will not lose points. This is to account for excused absences, including sicknesses and conference travel. For every day you miss over 2 days, you will be docked 3 points from your participation score. If you plan to miss more than 2 class days – excused or unexcused – you should consider taking the course at a different time when you are less busy.

At the start of class, I will close the door. If you enter the classroom after the door is closed (whether it be 5 seconds after or 5 minutes later), you are late. **Coming to class late two times will count as one missed day of class.** Therefore, if you come late to class four times, it will count as 2 missed days of class, and so on.

**Grade Breakdown:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Date** | **Points** | **Points Earned** |
| **Exam 1** | **1/31-2/3** | **100** |  |
| **Exam 2** | **3/21-3/24** | **100** |  |
| **Final Exam** | **5/5 (9:45-11:45am)** | **100** |  |
| **Quizzes** | **Throughout Semester** | **60** |  |
| **Assignments** | **Throughout Semester** | **100** |  |
| **Media Discussion Leader** | **Throughout Semester** | **20** |  |
| **Content Analysis Library Hand-Out** | **2/7** | **10** |  |
| **Content Analysis Proposal** | **2/21** | **15** |  |
| **Content Analysis Presentation** | **4/11, 4/13** | **100** |  |
| **Impact Paper** | **4/27** | **20** |  |
| **Participation** | **Throughout Semester** | **25** |  |
| **Total Points** |  | **650** |  |

**The final grade will be determined as follows:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **%** |
| A | 94-100 |
| A- | 90-93 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 84-86 |
| B- | 80-83 |
| C+ | 77-79 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **%** |
| C | 74-76 |
| C- | 70-73 |
| D+ | 67-69 |
| D | 64-66 |
| D- | 60-63 |
| F | 0-59 |

**Student Responsibilities:**

Students are responsible for attending all classes, taking notes, taking exams, monitoring their grades, and *completing all readings and assignments prior to their due dates*. Students are also responsible for actively engaging in class material during class lectures and for expressing their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner. Students will observe the following basic rules of etiquette: arriving to class on time, turning off cell phones, avoiding use of the internet during class, and discontinuing conversations not relevant to class.

**Statement of Academic Honesty**: Ball State University has a specific policy regarding academic dishonesty in Section VIII.B of the code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Cheating and plagiarism result in a minimum penalty of an F for the assignment with the possibility of failure of the course and suspension and or/dismissal from the university. For information about the University’s policy on cheating, see the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities at <http://www.bsu.edu/sa/srcs/studentcode/> .

**Extra Assistance**: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or [dsd@bsu.edu](mailto:dsd@bsu.edu).

**Learning Center:** The Learning Center offers free tutoring for many courses on campus, help with any writing task, and study strategies such as time management, test taking, note taking, and effective textbook reading. Call 765-285-1006 or visit NQ 350 to make an appointment to meet with a tutor.

**Artifact Collection*:*** From time to time, I may make copies of the work you do for this class (e.g., written assignments, exams, extra credit assignments) for department assessment purposes. I will remove all identifying information on these assignments before making your work available. Unless you decline in writing, I will assume that you are allowing me permission to keep copies of your work for this class. See me if you have questions.

*\*\*Please note that at times this course may involve discussion and materials of a sensitive nature. I will try to forewarn you of such upcoming lectures. If you feel you cannot attend, please contact me to make arrangements to have a study session with me or a teaching assistant.*

**Lecture and Reading Outline:**

This outline can only be an approximate guide. Dates for particular lecture topics are approximate and material may be added or deleted. The dates and materials for the exams will be as listed, unless changes are absolutely necessary. If changes affecting exams are made, they will be announced in class as soon as possible.





Final Exam: Friday 5/5 @ 9:45-11:45 (in class)