



PSYS 453/453G – Psychology of Women – Fall 2021

Class times: Web Course

Location: Web Course

Professor: Dr. Amy Brausch E-mail: amy.brausch@wku.edu Phone: 270-745-4407

Office Hours (KTH 1004): virtually by appointment. My goal is to return e-mails within 24 hours, outside of weekends and holidays.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Textbooks

- a. *Psychology of Women and Gender – 10th Edition*, by Else-Quest and Shibley Hyde. Sage Publishing. **E-BOOK – SEE NOTE BELOW.**
- b. *Reviving Ophelia, Revised and Updated*, by Mary Pipher and Sarah Pipher Gilliam.

2. **Computer and Internet access** (high speed recommended); your web browser should be within 1-2 years of the current browser. Typically one of these is loaded on home computers. Blackboard works well with Firefox and Google Chrome. Ironically, it doesn't work as well on Chromebooks.

NOTE ABOUT THE TEXTBOOK (Psychology of Women and Gender):

To enhance your learning experience and provide affordable access to the right course material, this course is part of an inclusive access model called First Day. You can easily access the required materials for this course at a discounted price, and benefit from single sign-on access with no codes required in Blackboard.

WKU will bill you at the discounted price as a course charge for this course. It is NOT recommended that you Opt-Out, as these materials are required to complete the course. You can choose to Opt-Out on the first day of class, but you will be responsible for purchasing your course materials at the full retail price and access to your materials may be suspended.

For more information and FAQs go to www.customercare.bncollege.com

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Completion of 6 hours of PSY/PSYS courses including PSY/PSYS 100 and junior standing; or permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the WKU Course Catalog: "Scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of girls and women. Topics include gender differences and similarities, inclusion of females in psychological research, psychological development of girls and women, sexuality, and mental health issues."

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to study an area of psychology that may be overlooked in other courses. The psychology of women cuts across several other areas of focus in psychology, including areas such as developmental, clinical, educational, social, cross-cultural, and physiological.

Historically, psychology was a field dominated by men who mainly used males as research subjects. Much like in the field of medicine, psychologists then attempted to generalize findings of studies to both males and females, which at times have not served females well at all. Just as we now know that medical issues like heart attacks affect women differently than men, in recent decades there has been a greater push toward understanding girls and women in their own context. The main objective of this course is to learn and study the concept of gender and the issues that females face throughout the lifespan. Additionally, you are encouraged to learn and utilize critical thinking skills as we read and evaluate different theories of gender and female processes.

PURPOSE OF THE SYLLABUS

This syllabus outlines the schedule that we will use to cover the major topics of the course. It includes a list of specific dates for activities, assignments, and discussion posts. The schedule also lists the required reading for the course. It also includes the distribution of points that will make up your grade in this course. If you have a question about the course, ***please check the syllabus first.*** You will likely find the answer; if not, contact me. **You are responsible for checking the course website on Blackboard and your e-mail on a daily basis for any posted announcements.**

Disclaimer: Please note that this syllabus is a general plan for the course and the professor reserves the right to deviate from this plan, if necessary, during the Fall 2021 term.

This course counts as an elective in the Gender and Women's Studies minor. The GWS program offers WKU undergraduates the chance to broaden their understanding of the arts and culture of everyday life including such experiences of gender, race, sexuality, age, identity, and social justice among others. Through innovative interdisciplinary coursework the minor helps students critically analyze a wide range of perspectives that lead to personal growth and ultimately to social transformation. If you are interested in learning more about this exciting and innovative program/minor, contact your instructor or check out the Gender and Women's Studies minor at:

https://www.wku.edu/womensstudies/academics/minor_in_gws.php

COURSE POLICIES

Motivation for an On-line Course

Success in this course will be related to your level of commitment and time management. Many students think that an on-line class will be easier than a face-to-face course. However, on-line courses require students to be even more responsible for learning the material. There are no class lectures to sit through with hopes that you will "just learn" the material by listening to the professor. This course will require you to read the assigned chapters by specific dates in order to not fall behind. You will also need to structure your time so that you can complete assignments, quizzes, and papers in a timely manner.

Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Academic misconduct will result in failure of an assignment, or in some cases, failure of the course, and appropriate disciplinary action, according to university guidelines. The following are not permitted: passing off someone else's work as your own, buying or selling assignments, or plagiarizing other people's work (including the textbooks).

Academic dishonesty tends to occur when students are having a rough semester and feel they need to resort to desperate measures to pass a class. If you find yourself in this situation, please come speak with me about your situation. You can also contact the WKU Academic Advising and Retention Center. They can assist in notifying your professors about a difficult situation, such as a death in the family or medical issue. The center is in Downing University Center, Room A330, phone: 745-5065.

Respect in the On-line Classroom

Respect for fellow students and the instructor is expected and is very important. This class may stir up strong emotions and opinions about certain topics. When posting on the discussion board, students are expected to use appropriate, respectful language. We may disagree with each other, and that's OK. It is not OK, however, to resort to name-calling or using other negative language. There is a general tendency for people to be more uninhibited when posting comments on-line because they feel a sense of anonymity. If you are unsure if a comment will be offensive, imagine yourself saying it out loud in class before posting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes

There will be 12 quizzes that will be administered on-line through the course Blackboard page. These quizzes are meant to assess basic content knowledge as you read from the main textbook. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false items and due dates are listed on the course calendar. Quizzes have a time limit so advance reading is recommended. Quizzes will generally be posted in advance and are open until 11:59pm on the day they are due. **The lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester, so points from 10 quizzes will count toward your final grade. If you miss a quiz, that will count as one of the dropped quizzes. Please contact me if you have a power outage, dropped WIFI access, etc. that is impacting you.**

Applied Assignments

You will complete 12 applied assignments for this class. They are listed on the Course Schedule and involve completing a short activity and writing a brief summary of it. The activities include things like watching video clips related to the topic of the week, reading vignettes and answering questions, looking up resources in the community, etc. Your summaries for each of these will range from a paragraph to 1-page. Directions for each will be posted on Blackboard in the folder for each week. Your written responses will be submitted through Blackboard in the "Quizzes & Assignments" tab. **You may also drop your two lowest scores for these assignments; if you miss an assignment, that will count as one dropped. Grades from 10 assignments will be included in your total points.**

Reviving Ophelia Paper

Chapters from *Reviving Ophelia*, by Mary Pipher, are assigned throughout the course as they correspond to chapters from the main text. At the end of the course, you will turn in an assignment that completes the following activities for the chapters that were assigned. You are also welcome to read additional chapters and use those in addition to the assigned chapters if you choose.

You must complete ALL of these:

a. Select at least 5 *key quotes or passages* from the book that you feel make an important point or convey a message. (You may find it helpful to highlight passages as you read the book, rather than selecting passages after you read the entire book.) List the quote or passage, and give the page number. For example,

"Often what hurts in the short term is ultimately rewarding, while what feels good in the short term is ultimately punishing. This concept is hard for adolescents to grasp, but important for their growth into adulthood." (p. 157)

b. Write a *personal reaction* (about 500 words) to the book. What did the book mean to you? What did you learn from the book as a person? What did you learn as a future educator, health professional, clinician, etc.?

c. Describe in writing at least 5 *suggested solutions or actions* educators and community health professionals can take to reduce the risk factors for adolescent females that were identified in the book. The last few chapters contain some useful ideas, but you must **generate your own ideas**. Do not copy ideas verbatim from this chapter.

USING BLACKBOARD

This class will be presented through "Blackboard," which is the name of the website you will use to access materials, turn in assignments, participate in discussions, and take quizzes. To access Blackboard:

- 1) Go to www.wku.edu
- 2) On the top of the page you will see a link that says "Quick Links." Hold your mouse over this and then select "Blackboard" from the links listed.
- 3) You will be required to login using your WKU email username (the part before the @) and WKU e-mail password (what you use to access your WKU e-mail).
- 4) After logging in, on the right-hand side of the screen, you will see the course name underlined, Psychology of Women. Click on the course name.
- 5) Now you will see a screen that will have any current announcements in the center. To the left will be a list of menu items on white buttons, such as "Content," "Quizzes & Assignments," etc. Click on these, depending on what you want to do.

Getting Course Materials

To access the syllabus and other documents I might post for the class, click the "Content" link on the far-left side.

Submitting Assignments & Papers

To submit papers through Blackboard, click the Quizzes & Assignments link, and then click on Assignments. Links to submit each assignment will be posted. Please do not submit papers as attachments.

Accessing Quizzes

To access the quizzes, click the "Quizzes & Assignments" link. Chapter quizzes may be taken once from any computer. Quizzes are timed so that book and notes may be minimally used.

If you get kicked out of a quiz, you should be able to continue in once you log back into Blackboard. Please e-mail me if you get kicked out of a quiz and can't get back in; I may have to manually reset it.

Checking Your Grade

You can check your grade anytime in Blackboard by clicking on the “My Grades” button.

Getting HELP!!

If you are experiencing difficulty with your computer or the internet, please call the WKU IT Help Desk at 270-745-7000. While I am usually your best resource for helping you with Blackboard, I am not a good resource for helping you with technical problems concerning your computer and the way it might be interfacing with Blackboard. **PLEASE read important information on Blackboard that is on the screen immediately after you login, and before you click the name of the class.** There is a box in the middle of the screen that tells you which web browsers work best for Blackboard (Web Browser recommendations). Most technical problems can be solved by changing browsers.

The Course Schedule and Due Dates - Due dates for assignments will be listed with each assignment and on the syllabus.

All assignments are due by the end of the last due date (11:59 p.m.) Central

Standard Time. Due dates/times indicate the last point at which I will accept discussion posts and assignments. **Assignments and posts may always be submitted early.** Assignments should be posted to Blackboard in the designated areas.

What happens if bad weather, severe outages, etc. interrupts the usual class activities?

In the event of an emergency local to you (but not to me or vice versa) that results in loss of connection (a technology breakdown, tornado, storm, earthquake, etc.) do your best to contact me by any means once it is reasonable to do so (phones, postal mail, email). Similarly, severe illness/hospitalization or death in immediate family can be an extenuating circumstance, and adjustments can be made to the course timing. Continue to keep up with the readings and any activities possible, and we will discuss options.

GRADING

Requirements	Points
Quizzes	200 (10 @ 20 points each)
Reviving Ophelia Paper	50 points
<u>Applied Assignments</u>	<u>100 (10 @ 10 points each)</u>
Total:	350 points

Grade	Points
A = 90 – 100%	B = 80 –89% C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 69%	F = below 60%

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility and Resource Center (SARC), Room A200, Downing University Center, phone: 745-5004. A letter is needed from the SARC for instructors to grant requests for accommodations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates listed are the LAST date by which work should be done. Discussion Board posts are due Sundays by midnight.

Week 1 August 23-27

- Read Syllabus, email me with questions
- Read Chapter 1 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Introduction
- Read Reviving Ophelia, *Saplings in the Storm*

Week August 30-Sept 3

- Read Chapter 2 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Theoretical Perspectives on Gender
- Read Reviving Ophelia, *False Selves, True Selves*
- Assignment #1 due 9/5 (responding to discussion questions)
- Quiz #1 due 9/5 (Covers Chapters 1 & 2)

Week 3 Sept 7-10

- Read Chapter 3 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Gender Stereotypes & Gender Differences
- Read Chapter 4 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Intersection of Gender & Ethnicity
- Assignment #2 due 9/12 (IAT activity and reflection)
- Quiz #2 due 9/12

Week 4 Sept 13-17

- Read Chapter 5 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Gender & Communication
- Read Reviving Ophelia, *Families: The Root Systems* and *Mothers*
- Assignment #3 due 9/19 (watching media and reflection)
- Quiz #3 due 9/19

Week 5 Sept 20-24

- Read Chapter 6 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Gender & Emotion
- Assignment #4 due 9/26 (Forbes Top 10 Stereotypes and reflection)
- Quiz #4 due 9/26

Week 6 Sept 27-Oct 1

- Read Chapter 7 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Lifespan Development
- Read Reviving Ophelia, *Developmental Considerations*
- Assignment #5 due 10/3 (Interview with older generation and reflection)
- Quiz #5 due 10/3

Week 7 Oct 4-8

- Read Chapter 8 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Abilities, Motivation, and Achievement
- Assignment #6 due 10/110 (Women in Athletics and reflection)
- Quiz #6 due 10/10

Week 8 Oct 11-13 (WKU Fall Break Oct 14-15 tentatively)

- Read Chapter 9 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Gender & Work
- Read Chapter 10 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Biology & Gender
- Assignment #7 due 10/17 (WKU departments review and reflection)
- Quiz #7 due 10/17

Week 9 Oct 18-22

- Read Chapter 11 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Psychology, Gender, & Health
- Read Reviving Ophelia, *Worshipping Thinness*
- Assignment #8 due 10/24 (Birth Control access article and reflection)
- Quiz #8 due 10/24

Week 10 Oct 25-29

- Read Chapter 12 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Gender & Sexuality
- Read Chapter 13 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Gender & Sexual Orientation
- Assignment #9 due 10/31 (Campus resources for LGBTQ and reflection)
- Quiz #9 due 10/31

Week 11 Nov 1-5

- Read Chapter 14 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Gender & Victimization
- Read Reviving Ophelia, *Sex & Violence*
- Assignment #10 due 11/7 (Vignette and reflection)
- Quiz #10 due 11/7

Week 12 Nov 8-12

- Read Chapter 15 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Gender & Mental Health Issues
- Read Reviving Ophelia, *Depression & Self-Harm*
- Assignment #11 due 11/14 (Vignettes and reflection OR TED talk and reflection)
- Quiz #11 due 11/14

Week 13 Nov 15-19

- Read Reviving Ophelia, *Anxiety*
- Read Reviving Ophelia, *Drugs & Alcohol*

Week 14 Nov 22-26

Thanksgiving Break Nov 24-26

- HAPPY THANKSGIVING – NO WORK THIS WEEK

Week 15 Nov 29-Dec 3

- Read Chapter 16 (Else-Quest & Shibley Hyde), Psychology of Men & Masculinity
- Read Reviving Ophelia, *Fathers*
- Assignment #12 due 12/5 (Video clips and reflection)
- Quiz #12 due 12/5

Week 16 Dec 6-10

Finals Week

- **Reviving Ophelia Paper due by 12/9**
- **Graduate Student Paper due by 12/9**