Raritan Valley Community College
Course Outline

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: PSYC 203 Psychology of Women and Gender
B. Date of Proposal: February 21, 2006
C. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences and Education
D. Semester Credit Hours: 3.0
E. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3.0
F. Prerequisites: Introduction to Psychology
G. Laboratory Fees: None

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology
This course focuses on the research that expands current psychological theory concerning the lives of women, including such topics as theories of women’s personality development, individual and societal factors affecting women’s achievement and career choices, work and family experiences, and mental health status. Feminist psychologists’ criticism of traditional psychology will be examined along with an analysis of psychology’s construction of the female. The processes by which both girls and boys develop a sense of gender within our culture will be integrated throughout.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course is a standard psychology (Social Science) elective that students can take to help fulfill liberal arts degree requirements.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Psychology of Women and Gender:
   • Elective
   • Social Science Elective
   • General Education Elective
   • Diversity Elective

B. Psychology of Women and Gender is a standard psychology elective. It should transfer to colleges that have psychology of women or a psychology of gender as a 200-level course. College, at their discretion, may grant non-specific transfer credit.
V. Outline of Course Content

- Introduction to a Feminist Psychology of Women and Gender
- Images of Women and Men
- Doing Gender
- The Meanings of Difference
- Biological Bases of Sex
- Becoming gendered: Childhood
- Becoming a Woman: Puberty and Adolescence
- Sex, Love and Romance
- Commitments: Women and Long-term Relationships
- Mothering
- Work and Achievement
- Midlife and Beyond
- Violence against Women
- Mental and Physical Health
- Making a Difference: Toward a Better Future for Women

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

Educational Goals

Students will:

- Develop an awareness of how gender operates at intrapersonal, interpersonal and structural levels (G.E. 1, 2, 4, 6)
- Demonstrate a understanding of women’s personality development and how their choices are affected by social factors (G.E. 1, 2, 4, 6)
- Enhance their understanding of feminist criticism of traditional research (G.E. 1, 2, 6)
- Develop an appreciation for the importance of social science methodology. (G.E. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7)

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Describe how gender impacts behavior (G.E. 1, 2, 4, 7)
- Analyze how women’s and men’s choice in terms of social influences (G.E. 1, 2, 4, 6)
- Discuss issues effectively, conveying both understanding and openness toward divergent perspectives (G.E. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7)
- Evaluate scholarly research methods and outcomes (G.E. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7)
VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- lecture/discussion
- small-group work
- student oral presentations
- simulation/role playing
- student collaboration
- independent study

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

- essay exams
- multiple-choice exams
- research papers
- demonstrations
- journals

IX. Grade Determinants

Students will typically take three combined multiple-choice and essay exams during the semester. Additionally, there will be several small projects involving short papers, surveys, interviews as well as a research paper focusing on scholarly studies.

X. Texts and Materials

Textbook:


XI. Resources

No additional resources required.