

**WMST 251**  
**Psychology of Women**  
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

**Description**

**WMST 251 – Psychology of Women:** Examines the unique psychological and social issues confronting women today; critiques past and present theories regarding women's social development, sexuality, intellectual capacities, and psychology; analyzes social and cultural stresses particularly affecting women; presents skills and strategies for promoting constructive change.

**Pre-requisites: PSYC 101**

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Exhibit an understanding of the difference between sex and gender;
2. Analyze sex role expectancies; including etiology, and impact on present and future behavior;
3. Develop a historical perspective on women in psychology;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of both environmental and genetic contributions to sex role development;
5. Evaluate the use of experimentation to determine the validity of contrasting theoretical approaches;
6. Critically evaluate cultural aspects of sex role development;
7. Apply the knowledge they acquire to foster gender quality; and
8. Recognize the contributions of women to modern society.

**Major Topics**

- I. The Women of Psychology and the Psychology of Women
- II. Psychology of Women: Perspectives on Research Methodologies
- III. Theories of Women's Personalities and Women's Mental Health
- IV. Physical Development Across the Life Cycle
- V. Verbal and Nonverbal Communication by and about Women
- VI. Women's Friendships and Romantic Relationships
- VII. Women's Health Issues
- VIII. Career Psychology of Women
- IX. Women's Sexuality, Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health
- X. Violence against Women
- XI. The Psychology of Women: to the Future. Introduction – historical perspective

**Course Requirements**

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.  
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Tests/Quizzes
- Research papers
- Oral Presentation
- Cooperative learning group assignments
- Classroom participation

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an elective in the psychology department and is a recommended course within the transfer pattern.

Lab and computer assignments may be included in the course content.

Date Revised: 6/15/2000