The first unit of the course will focus on an overview of the socialization of women throughout the lifespan. Topics in this unit will include preschool socialization; adolescent roles; women's roles as partner, parent and worker; midlife transitions in women's lives; and aging women. The second and third units will explore in detail two issues of importance to women. The second unit will focus on women and mental health. The topics covered in this unit will include the use and abuse of prescription drugs, the woman's role as patient in the mental health system, the use of labels such as masochism for social control, and alternative feminist therapies. The third unit will focus on women's friendships. Topics to be explored will include childhood friendships, friendships with women, friendships with men, and the role that friends play in our lives.

REQUIRED READING


COURSE STRUCTURE

For the first unit classes will be structured as lectures with questions and discussion. The instructor will present research and theoretical information important to understanding the socialization of women from birth to old age. The midterm exam will cover the information from the first unit. The second unit (mental health) and particularly the third unit (friendship) will be conducted in more of a seminar format. In addition to the information the instructor presents, the students will be expected to come to class prepared to criticize and explore the assigned readings.

(continued overleaf)
ASSIGNMENTS

Midterm exam:

This exam will be part take-home and part in-class. One essay question will be given out two weeks before the midterm exam. Students will be expected to write on this question for one-third of the exam. One other essay question and several short answer questions will make up the other two-thirds of the exam. The exam will count for 20% of the final mark.

Class Participation:

Class participation will count for 30% of the final mark. Evaluation will be based on general attendance and participation in the seminars and tutorials (15%) and two short (5-10 min.) prepared presentations over the readings which will be made in tutorials or seminars throughout the term (15%).

Paper:

A short (6-8 pages) paper on a topic of the student's choice will count for 30% of the final mark. The paper topic must be discussed with the instructor before work is begun. Outside reading (that is, outside the assigned class readings) for the paper should not be extensive. For example a student may choose to focus on one book or a few journal articles for the paper. Readings assigned for the class may be used in the paper. The important part of the paper is not to survey a large amount of information but rather to think about and work with a small amount of information critically.

Short essays:

For each of the second (mental health) and third (friendship) units a short take-home essay (2-3 pages) will be assigned. Each essay will count for 10% of the final mark. A list of several essay questions will be provided at the beginning of each unit. The student may choose any one question from the list of questions provided.

Prerequisites: W.S. 100 (may be taken concurrently, with the approval of the Coordinating Committee)

THIS COURSE MAY BE APPLIED TO THE CERTIFICATE IN LIBERAL ARTS