

HON 3260 - The Untold Stories of Women in Science: Why so few of them ?

Syllabus, Fall 2014

I. Welcome!

Welcome to HON 3260! Each week, this three-credit course includes one 150 minutes meeting, arranged in two 70-minute sessions separated by a 10-minute break. Based on your majors, you are coming to this course with many different backgrounds and are headed in many different directions. Your instructor is here to help you along. For some of you, this will be your only chance to learn about women scientists, the lives they live and the work they lead. For others, this is merely the start of a long series of classes and experiences through which you yourself will become a scientist. Whatever your situation and plans, we can work through this semester together and learn a great deal about the complex and often untold stories of women in science. Gertrude B. Ellion, Biochemist and Nobel Laureate once said "Don't be afraid of hard work. Nothing worthwhile comes easily. Don't let others discourage you or tell you that you can't do it. In my day I was told women didn't go into chemistry. I saw no reason why we couldn't."

II. Meeting time and place:

Lectures: 100 Auburn Building Room 223, Thursdays 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM; CRN: 82889

We will divide our lecture time in two sessions with a 10 mn break: 1:00 - 2:10 PM and 2:20 - 3:30 PM

III. Instructor: Dr. Nadine Kabengi (Dr. K), Assistant Professor; 387 Kell Hall, 413-5207, kabengi@gsu.edu.

Please note that the best way to catch me is by e-mail; I check it frequently. Office hours: by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Lucy Taylor; Graduate Student; ltaylor46@student.gsu.edu;

Honors College Librarian: Ms. Ida T. Martinez; 542 Library South; itmartinez@gsu.edu (preferred method of contact); please make appointment for consultation.

IV. Email policy: if you e-mail me, you can expect a response within 48 hours. If I e-mail you, I will assume that you will receive it within 48 hours. My preference is for you to send directly to [Kabengi@gsu.edu](mailto:kabengi@gsu.edu) (i.e. not through the D2L email function). For urgent matters, please come by my office.

V. Required text: None. All course-related materials (readings, homework, videos, etc.) will be posted and/or administered on Desire2Learn. Additional materials will be put on reserve at the Library.

VI. Course description: Through guided readings, discussions and free-form class participation this seminar will foster discussions and critical thinking on relevant issues relevant to the topic of women in sciences. Topics such as whether women are less cognitively able than men, how to improve the educational opportunities for women, whether women should change to better fit the profession or whether and whether science should change to accommodate the needs and interest of women will be debated. This seminar will be an opportunity to obtain information and discuss issues which are not covered in regular science courses and to bring together male and female students from both science and non-science majors to contemplate a highly complex topic.

VII. Course Objectives

1. Learn about influential women scientists'
2. Gain further understanding of the complex and multifaceted nature of the issue of women in science
3. Engage in a broad examination of the historical, societal, and educational factors influencing the future role of women in science.

VIII. Course Tips for Success

1. A great attitude and desire to learn!
2. Actively attend every lecture and engage in class discussions.
3. Review lecture notes and read assignments when applicable.
4. Come and see me when and if you have any questions or issues.
5. Enjoy yourself and appreciate the experience.

Doing the above will be of great benefit to you because you will increase your understanding and retention of course material, improve your study skills, and give yourself the opportunity to do your best work.

IX. Grading System: The course is letter-graded. The different ways to accumulate points are:

Evaluation type	Points
1. In-class biography presentation	10
2. In-class article discussion	20
3. D2L discussion and assignments	40
4. Final Project	25
5. Attendance	5
Total points available →	100

Details on evaluation types:

- 1) **In-class biography presentation:** this is an individual activity. You will be asked to give a 10-minute oral presentation on a female scientist of your choice. The format and the focus of the biography can be tailored to suit your interests and skills. These presentations will start on week 3 (Sept 11) and there will be two presentations for each lecture, one at the beginning of each session. The order of the students will be chosen at random and selection must be finalized by end of week 2.
- 2) **In-class article discussion:** this will be done in groups of two. Each group will select from the reading list an article related to a planned class topic. The group will prepare 5-7 questions on either the chosen article and/or the topic. These questions, due the Monday prior to the group scheduled time, will be posted on D2L for all students to answer. In class, the group will be responsible for leading the discussion. The group should have read and prepared additional background information and materials to share with the class to keep the discussion going. The article discussions will start on week 4 (Sept 18). Students will be paired based on their interest in the planned topics.
- 3) **Final Project:** this will be done in groups of four. Each group will design, prepare and present **one deliverable item** to shed the light, promote and encourage women in science. These items should be accessible to the general public, middle-school and high-school students and the general university community. The type, format and design are left to the group preferences and interests. One class-lecture (October 9) will be dedicated for groups to discuss and plan their ideas. The final projects are to be unveiled to the class and other stakeholders the last week of class (Dec 4).

X. Lecture Schedule – 5th edition

This is the general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

	DATE		TOPIC	BIOS	GPS
1	Aug 28	1 2	Intro to course Background		
Part 1: Status of Women in Science					
2	Sept 4	1 2	Hidden Histories Modern Accounts	[nk]	
3	Sept 11	1 2	Guest Dr. Dixon Accounts	1 2	
Part II: Naturally Few					
4	Sept 18	1 2	Beliefs about intelligence Ability and Aptitude	3 4	GP1
5	Sept 25	1 2	Stereotypes Self-assessment	5 6	GP2
6	Oct 2	1 2	Spatial skills Recommendations	7 8	GP3
7	Oct 9	1 2	Research Project Planning and Discussion		
Part III: Why So Few					
8	Oct 16	1 2	Discrimination Implicit Bias	9 10	GP4
9	Oct 23	1 2	Retention and Attrition College experience / faculty	11 12	GP5
10	Oct 30	1 2	System Societal Barrier Minority Women in Science	13 14	GP6
11	Nov 6	1 2	Dr. Rose – Marie Curie Recommendations		
Part IV: The Impact of the Few					
12	Nov 13	1 2	Feminist culture of science Absence of women in science	15 16	GP7
13	Nov 20	1 2	Language of Science Recommendations	17 18	GP8
14	Nov 27	1 2	THANKSGIVING NO CLASS		
15	Dec 4	1 2	Final Project Final project		

October 14 is the last day to withdraw from the course with the possibility of receiving a 'W' .

XII. Course Policies:

1) Overall conduct: The classroom is a place for learning and teaching. We check our egos at the door and enter with an open, inquisitive mind. We ask questions when they arise without the fear of being judged. No one will ever be considered “stupid”! We respect ourselves and our classmates. We follow three keywords: Respect, Integrity and Honesty.

2) Time compliance: Class time is from **1:00 p.m to 3:30 p.m** each Thursday. Arriving late is disrespectful and disrupting for your classmates and professor. Being more than 10 minutes late for class will be ground for dismissal for the week’s session.

3) Cell Phone Use: Cell phone use (e.g. phone calls, texting, etc.) is not permitted during class time unless specifically authorized by me. If you choose to use your cell phone during class time, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

4) Course attendance policy: Students who attend every session of this course will benefit from first-hand, direct learning opportunities. Excused absences will be based on GSU standards (Section 1334 of the University Academic Regulations of the Undergraduate Catalog and include illness of the student; death of an immediate family member; official trips for University clubs, classes or teams; major religious holidays; and legal obligations. The attendance policies as well as other academic regulations are available online at http://www.gsu.edu/enrollment/images/Enrollment_Services/2012-2013_Undergraduate_Catalog.pdf.

5) Make-up policy: Work turned in late will not be accepted.

6) Academic Integrity: Scholastic dishonesty is not tolerated. Forms of scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: plagiarism (copying or using someone else’s work as your own), utilization of unauthorized materials during academic evaluations, and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during evaluations. Georgia State University rules are pretty strict on this, so we expect you to do your own original work. Be advised that violations of the academic dishonesty rules which can be viewed online at <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwfhb/sec409.html> are grounds for receiving an “F” in the course.

7) Withdrawal Procedures: The last day to withdraw from the course with the possibility of receiving a ‘W’ is **October 14**. If you withdraw by this date but are failing the course, you will receive a ‘WF.’ If you withdraw after this date you will receive a ‘WF’. **Feel free to talk to me if you are considering withdrawing.** The university’s course withdrawal procedures can be found in section 1332 of the undergraduate catalog.

8) Accommodations for students with disabilities: Please talk to me if you have a documented disability that needs to be accommodated. Georgia State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek academic accommodations must first take appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services locate in Suite 230 of the New Student Center.

Good work!