

# Woman Rising XIX

## The Gender Revolution: Expanding the Heroic

**Instructor: Lawrence E. Hedges, Ph.D, Psy.D., ABPP**

### Course Description:

The heroic has yet to be expanded to include what women most value—relationships, everyday life, and an appreciation of diversity. How is this expanded vision of the heroic attained, sustained, or lost by the daily choices made in the lives of women *and* men? Cultural and psychological changes in roles, expectations, and relational conflicts are being articulated clearly today by women creative writers. Focusing on a different book each month, we seek to understand the shifting concerns of the gender revolution as it affects us as psychotherapists and in our personal lives. This is an intermediate course.

### Learning Goals:

- Learn to identify women's unique psychological experiences from many different perspectives including cultural, familial, relational, temporal, sexual, physical, spiritual, and creative.
- Learn how culture shapes who we are as individuals and what obstacles, inspirations, and challenges reside within our cultural experience.
- Learn from the deep wellsprings of creative women how relationships shape the psyche of women and help give expression to who they are becoming and what they desire.
- Learn how relational issues defined by creative writers can be used to enrich the psychotherapy experience.

**Meet the first Tuesdays of each month 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** beginning October, 2012. Tuition for the year (12 hours of continuing education credit is \$320) including the non-refundable \$80 registration fee with the balance to be paid in 2 installments of \$100.

**Early Bird fee of \$275 due by September 1, 2012**

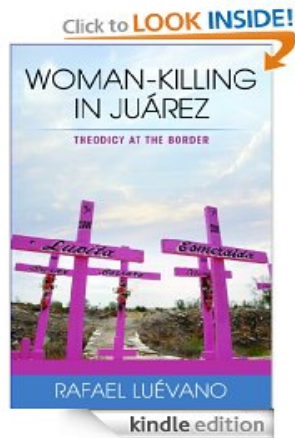
The Listening Perspectives Study Center is approved to provide Continuing Education Credits for Psychologists, Marriage and Family Therapists, Social Workers, and Nurses. The exact number of credits awarded is equal to the number of contact hours for each event and is specified on the Syllabus and the Registration Form.

Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers Provider Number: PCE348.

California Board of Registered Nursing Provider Number: CEP12038

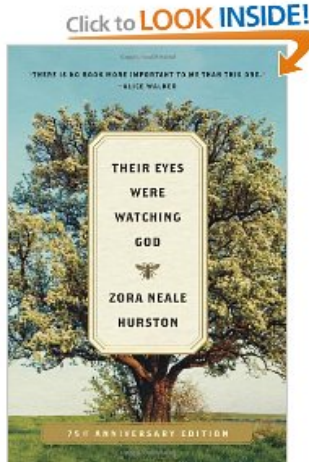
The Listening Perspective Study Center is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Listening Perspectives Study Center maintains responsibility for the program and its content.

## Required Readings



### October- *Woman-Killing in Juárez* by Rafael Luevano

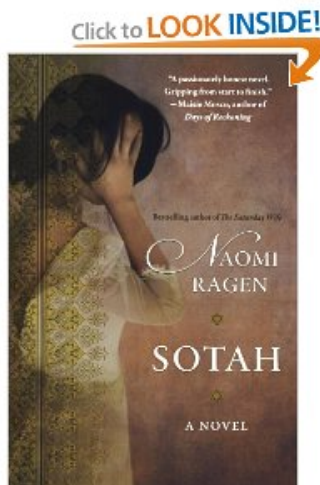
A penetrating account of the unsolved murders of over 500 women in Ciudad Juárez with theological reflection on the presence of suffering and evil in the world.



### November- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Hurston

“A deeply soulful novel that comprehends love and cruelty, and separates the big people from the small of heart, without ever losing sympathy for those unfortunates who don’t know how to live properly.” — Zadie Smith

One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences’ rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston’s classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.

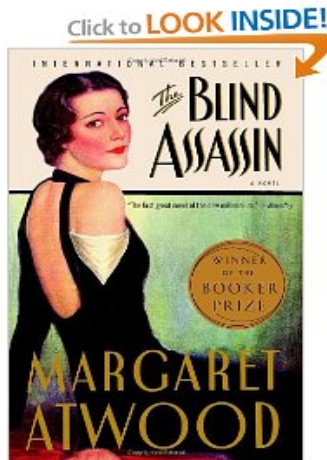


### December- *Sotah* by Naomi Ragan

Beautiful, fragile Dina Reich, a young woman in Jerusalem’s ultra-Orthodox haredi enclave, stands accused of the community’s most unforgivable sin: adultery. Raised with her sisters to be an obedient daughter and a dutiful wife, Dina secretly yearned for the knowledge, romance, and excitement that she knew her circumscribed life would never satisfy. When her first romance is tragically thwarted, she willingly enters into an arranged marriage with a loving but painfully quiet man. Dina’s deeply

repressed passions become impossible to ignore, finding a dangerous outlet in a sudden and intense obsession with a married man, with terrible consequences. Exiled to New York City, Dina meets Joan, a modern secular woman who challenges all she knows of the world and herself.

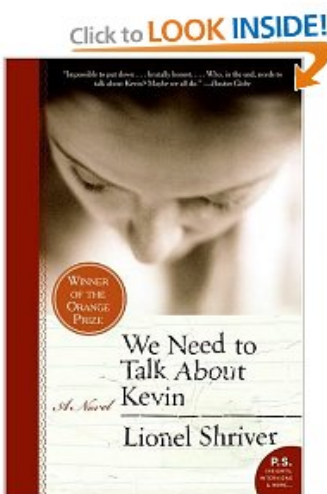
Set against the exotic backdrop of Jerusalem's glistening white stones and ancient rituals, *Sotah* is a contemporary story of the struggle to reconcile tradition with freedom, and faith with love.



### January- *The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood

**The Blind Assassin** opens with these simple, resonant words: "Ten days after the war ended, my sister Laura drove a car off a bridge." They are spoken by Iris, whose terse account of her sister's death in 1945 is followed by an inquest report proclaiming the death accidental. But just as the reader expects to settle into Laura's story, Atwood introduces a novel-within-a-novel. Entitled **The Blind Assassin**, it is a science fiction story told by two unnamed lovers who meet in dingy backstreet

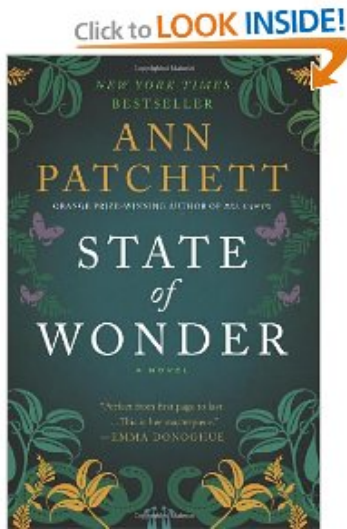
rooms. When we return to Iris, it is through a 1947 newspaper article announcing the discovery of a sailboat carrying the dead body of her husband, a distinguished industrialist. Brilliantly weaving together such seemingly disparate elements, Atwood creates a world of astonishing vision and unforgettable impact.



### February- *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel Shriver

Now a major motion picture by Lynne Ramsay, starring Tilda Swinton and John C. Reilly, Lionel Shriver's resonant story of a mother's unsettling quest to understand her teenage son's deadly violence, her own ambivalence toward motherhood, and the explosive link between them reverberates with the haunting power of high hopes shattered by dark realities. Like Shriver's charged and incisive later novels, including *So Much for That* and *The Post-Birthday World*, *We Need to Talk About Kevin* is a piercing, unforgettable, and penetrating exploration of violence, family ties, and

responsibility, a book that the *Boston Globe* describes as "sometimes searing . . . [and] impossible to put down."

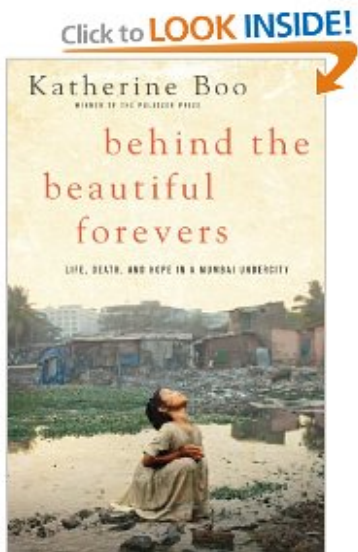


in the name of discovery and love.

### March- *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett

“Expect miracles when you read Ann Patchett’s fiction.”—*New York Times Book Review*

Award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author Ann Patchett returns with a provocative and assured novel of morality and miracles, science and sacrifice set in the Amazon rainforest. Infusing the narrative with the same ingenuity and emotional urgency that pervaded her acclaimed previous novels *Bel Canto*, *Taft*, *Run*, *The Magician’s Assistant*, and *The Patron Saint of Liars*, Patchett delivers an enthralling, innovative tale of aspiration, exploration, and attachment in *State of Wonder*—a gripping adventure story and a profound look at the difficult choices we make



### April- *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo

In this brilliantly written, fast-paced book, based on three years of uncompromising reporting, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human.

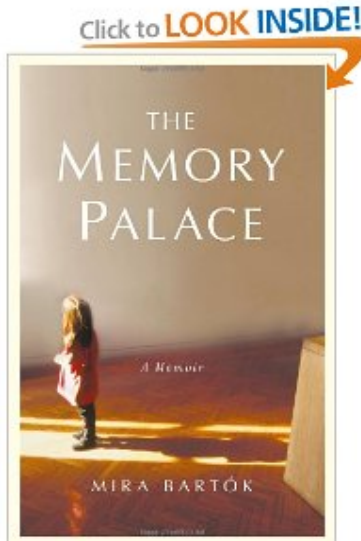
Annawadi is a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport, and as India starts to prosper, Annawadians are electric with hope. Abdul, a reflective and enterprising Muslim teenager, sees “a fortune beyond counting” in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Asha, a woman of formidable wit and deep scars from a childhood in rural poverty, has identified an alternate route to the middle class: political

corruption. With a little luck, her sensitive, beautiful daughter—Annawadi’s “most-everything girl”—will soon become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest Annawadians, like Kalu, a fifteen-year-old scrap-metal thief, believe themselves inching closer to the good lives and good times they call “the full enjoy.”

But then Abdul the garbage sorter is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and a global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power and economic envy turn brutal. As the tenderest individual hopes intersect with the greatest global truths, the true contours of a competitive age are revealed. And so, too, are the imaginations and courage of the people of Annawadi.

With intelligence, humor, and deep insight into what connects human beings to one another in an era of tumultuous change, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* carries the reader headlong

into one of the twenty-first century's hidden worlds, and into the lives of people impossible to forget.



### **May- *The Memory Place* by Mira Bartók**

People have abandoned their loved ones for much less than you've been through," Mira Bartók is told at her mother's memorial service. It is a poignant observation about the relationship between Mira, her sister, and their mentally ill mother. Before she was struck with schizophrenia at the age of nineteen, beautiful piano protégé Norma Herr had been the most vibrant personality in the room. She loved her daughters and did her best to raise them well, but as her mental state deteriorated, Norma spoke less about Chopin and more about Nazis and her fear that her daughters would be kidnapped, murdered, or raped.