

**EDHS/WGS 2891-1 and EDHS 5891-1
Issues Facing Adolescent Girls
FALL 2013**

Professor:

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Course Description:

Each of you who have chosen to be a mentor through the Young Women Leaders Program has a desire to make a positive difference in the life of a middle school girl. YWLP is an academic service learning program committed to helping you grow academically and personally, so your experience of mentoring is richer and more fulfilling. In YWLP, we accomplish this by focusing on developing the leadership qualities of competency, connection and autonomy in our Big and Little Sisters. We explore how developmental, psychological, social, and cultural issues complicate the lives of middle school girls asking, "How do racial, economic, and ethnic differences affect girls' self-concept?" As a Big Sister, you will deepen your knowledge of effective mentoring practices and learn how to proactively support your Little Sister's growth as a leader. Understanding how neurological development, relational aggression and cultural differences shape the experiences of adolescent girls will help you be a better mentor. Everything you learn will help you be a better mentor to your YWLP Little Sister and a more confident leader in all aspects of your life. It might also result in understanding how your experiences in middle school helped shape the woman you are today.

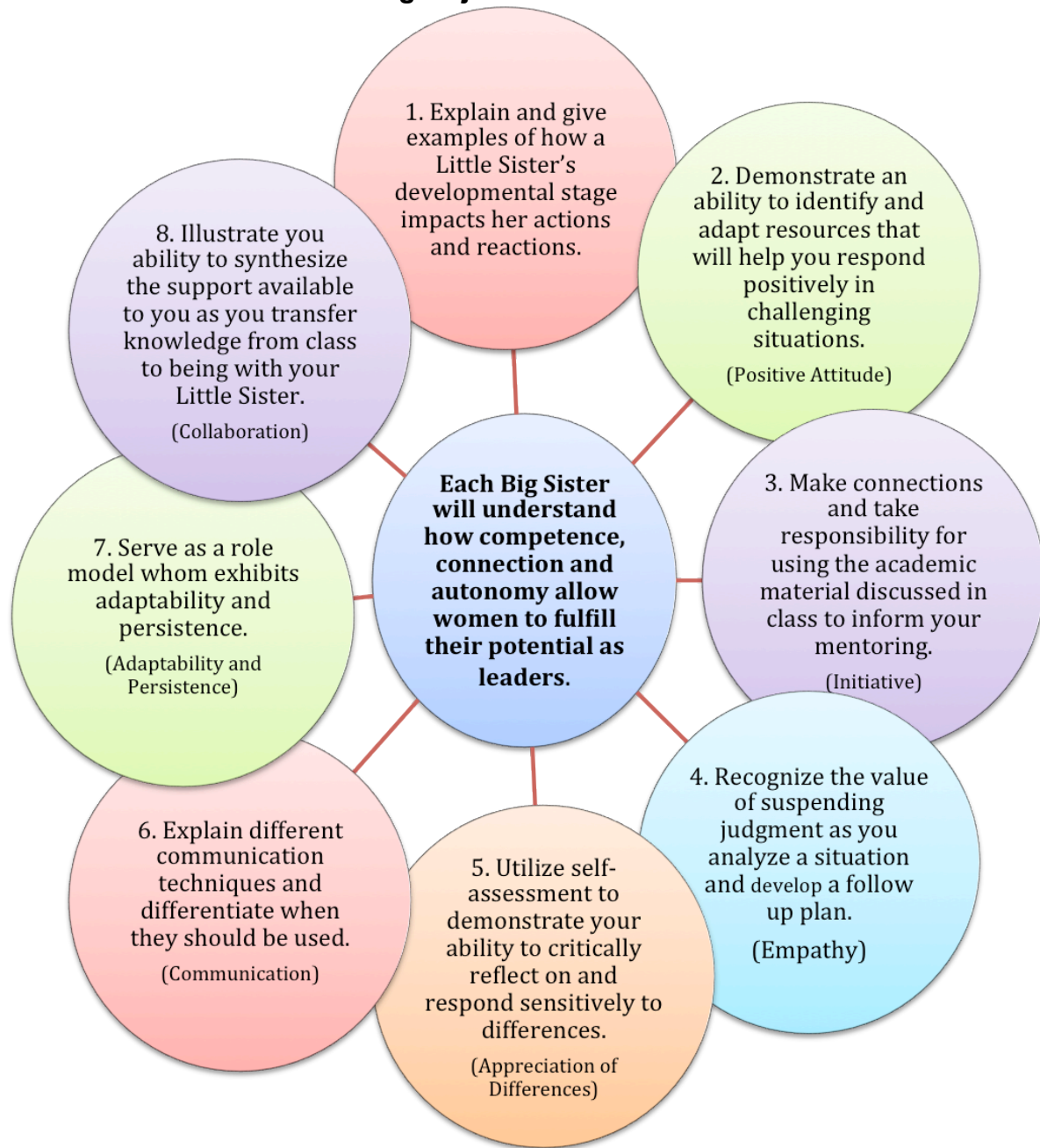
Course Components

Big Sister Course	Mondays 4:00-5:00 p.m.	TBA
Big Sister Group Meeting	Mondays 5:00-6:00 p.m.	TBA
Middle School Group	TBA (2 hours)	TBA
One-on-one time with mentee	Arranged by mentoring pair	(4 hrs/month)

Guiding Questions

- How can women help and hinder each other's leadership?
- How do social identities affect girls' self-concept?
- How are we shaped by our experiences and use them to make meaning?

YWLP Course Goal & Learning Objectives



How is YWLP Graded?

Your grade in YWLP will be a combination of the activities you undertake as a mentor and the material you learn as part of our academic course. Assessments are divided into two categories: process assessments that are designed to facilitate your learning and product assessments that are your opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned.

Process Assessments (40% of your grade)

One of the most important parts of YWLP is being present and open to the process and reflecting on your own learning. We want you to take risks and grow as part of this experience. Credit for most of these components is earned by completing pieces on time and with intention. There are detailed explanations of each of these on the course website. Due dates are listed on the course calendar, which can be accessed here [insert website].

Program Engagement	100 points total
Class warm ups (20 points)	
In class activities & clicker quizzes (20 points)	
Attendance (40 points)	
Outside Time with Little Sister (30 points)	
Mentor Group Leadership (10 points)	
Reflecting on Learning and Growth	80 points total
Self Evaluations (40 points)	
Peer Evaluations (40 points)	

Product Assessments (60% of your grade)

These assessments are the majority of your grade in this course and allow you to demonstrate and apply what you are learning in our class and as a mentor. Each of these assignments will be graded according to a rubric that will be provided to you in advance. There are detailed explanations and rubrics for each of these on the course website.

Group Project	100 points total
Sticky Situation Case Study Presentation (50 points)	
Digital Story (50 points)	
Appreciative Interview Formal Paper	100 points total
Leadership Portfolio	100 points total
Midterm Portfolio (40 points)	
Final Portfolio (60 points)	

Assessment Descriptions

Class warm ups (reading questions) - Each week you will be asked to answer two-three questions by Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. These will be found and posted on the course website. Full credit will be earned for completing these questions on time. Because they are designed to prepare you for class, no credit is earned if you miss the deadline. (Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 6)

In class activities and clicker quizzes – Each class period will include a class activity and/or clicker questions that will be graded to be credit or no credit. (Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 6)

Attendance – A significant piece of YWLP is being present at all the components of the class. We understand you are busy and committed young women who have many demands on your time. You may miss one Monday class and one Big Sister meeting without penalty. All absences after this one must be excused. If you miss more than one Monday class or group there will be a 10-point penalty. Missing your mentoring group means not being present for your Little Sister. There is a third of a letter grade penalty for each mentoring group unexcused absence (A to A-). Only a hospitalization, contagious illness with a doctor's note, death in your family or a religious holiday justifies an excused absence. These must be approved in writing by one of the Teaching Assistants. A detailed schedule of when the attendance surveys are to be completed is available on the course calendar. (Objectives 1-8)

Outside time with your Little Sister – You will organize and spend 4 hours of outside time with your Little Sister each month. A detailed schedule of when these are due is provided on the course website. You will report these hours via the weekly attendance survey. (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7)

Mentoring Group Leadership – This fall, you will be asked to lead some of the group activities during your mentoring group at your middle school. (Objectives 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8)

Self Evaluation – Complete the self-evaluation rubric three times this semester. You will choose one of these to include in your leadership portfolio each time it is due. (Objectives 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8)

Peer Evaluation – You will complete a peer evaluation for each member of your Big Sister group and your facilitator three times this semester. These will be completed using an automated online system. (Objectives 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8)

Group Project – Your Big Sister group is your natural learning community with this course. Working cooperatively, your group will complete two related projects this semester. (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 & 8)

1. Sticky Situation Case Study – Each group will be given a case study that explores a specific developmental or social situation that might be difficult for Big of Little Sisters. Using class readings and the YWLP mentoring competencies, you will present to the class three possible ways a mentor could productively respond to this situation. (50 points –
2. Digital Story – After presenting your case study to the class, your group will create a digital story that you can use as a way to discuss this situation with your mentees. You will use this with your Little Sisters during the first part of the spring semester. (50 points)

Appreciative Interview Formal Paper – This is an opportunity to get to know a woman your Little Sister has identified as being important in her life (e.g., mother, grandmother, aunt) by interviewing her about your mentee. You will also interview your Little Sister about what this woman has taught her and why she is a role model. You will then use the interview as the basis for a formal analysis paper that considers how your Little's social identity has influenced her development and how the YWLP principles can help her develop leadership skills. (100 points – Objectives 2, 4, 5, 6, & 8)

Leadership Portfolio – [Need description of the purpose of the portfolio here.] (Objectives 1-8)

Midterm Portfolio (40 points)

1. List component to be included
2. List component to be included
3. List component to be included
4. List component to be included

Final Portfolio (60 points)

1. You will include all the components that we included in the midterm portfolio.
2. List component to be included
3. List component to be included
4. List component to be included
5. List component to be included

Big Sister Class Schedule

Class Date	Group Week	Big understanding of the week! (Big Sister Class, Facilitator Class, and 7 th and 8 th Grade Groups)	
		Class Preparation:	(We will list readings here.)
		Items Due:	(We will list these here.)
9/2/13	Groups Week 1	<i>Authentic relationships take time, commitment and collaboration.</i>	
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	
9/9/13	Groups Week 2	<i>Leadership is strengthened when you appreciate resources of others.</i>	
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	
9/16/13	Groups Week 3	<i>Adaptability and persistence are foundational to solving problems and achieving goals.</i>	
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	
9/23/13	Groups Play Day	Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	
9/30/13	Groups Week 4	<i>Meaningful connection with others often involves initiative and stepping outside your comfort zone.</i>	
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	
10/7/13	Groups Week 5	<i>Recognizing we are part of a larger community helps us act on our empathy for others.</i>	

		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	

10/14/13 No Class Reading Days	Groups Week 6	<i>Appreciating differences enriches our connection with others and understanding of ourselves.</i>	
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	

TBD	YWLP Food Drive		
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10/21/13	Groups Week 7	<i>Success requires leaning into and collaborating with your support network.</i>	
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	Items Due

10/28/13	Groups Play Day		
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	Items Due

11/4/13	Groups Week 8	<i>Challenging situations necessitate slowing down in order to recognize your options.</i>	
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	

11/11/13	Groups Week 9	<i>Challenging misperceptions is a part of developing an authentic sense of self.</i>	
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	

11/18/13	Groups Week 10	<i>Celebrating effort fosters growth.</i>	
		Class Preparation:	

		Items Due:	
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11/25/13	No Class or Groups – Thanksgiving		
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12/2/13	Groups Play Day		
		Class Preparation:	
		Items Due:	

12/7/13	YWLP Fall Finale		
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