Course Overview

Reproduction is a strategic site for examining the relationship between bodies and societies. In this class, we will approach reproduction as a process that is simultaneously biological and social, involving male and female bodies, family formation, and powerful social institutions such as medicine, law, and the marketplace. We will examine sociological research on a wide range of reproductive topics, including pregnancy, birth, abortion, contraception, infertility, reproductive technology, and aging. Using core sociological concepts (e.g. medicalization, kinship, commodification), we will pay particular attention to how the politics of reproduction are shaped by the intersecting inequalities of gender, race, class, and sexuality.

Requirements

- Attendance and Active Participation in Class - 20%
- Weekly Response Memos - 25%
  In 200 words, summarize the main point of the week's reading before offering your own reflections. Memos are due in the Assignments section of the Classes Server by 11:00am on the day of class.
- Paper Proposal - 5%
  Briefly describe your topic and how you intend to approach it in 2 double-spaced pages. Include a preliminary bibliography of 5 to 8 articles or books not assigned in class. A paper copy of your proposal is due at the beginning of class in Week 12. You must discuss your ideas for the paper with me prior to submitting the proposal.
- Research Presentation - 10%
  5-minute presentation on the topic of your research paper, in class during Week 13.
- Research Paper - 40%
  Undergraduates: 10-12 pages. Graduate students: 15-18 pages.
  Papers should be double-spaced with 1" margins written in Times New Roman, 12-point font. Papers are due by 4pm on Friday, May 1st in the Assignments section of the Classes Server. Late papers (after 4:05pm) will be marked down one letter grade per day.

Readings

All readings are available through course reserves. All of the articles and book chapters are available in PDFs on the Classes server. Books with lengthy excerpts are also available for 2-hour checkout at Bass library.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Students who cheat on any of the assignments will receive an F for the class, and the matter will be referred to Yale's Executive Committee (see Yale's Academic Honesty Policy). A full discussion of citing sources and avoiding plagiarism is on the Yale Writing Center Website.
Week 1: Introduction

*No reading*

Week 2: Theoretical and Historical Approaches to Reproduction


Week 3: Pregnancy


Week 4: Birth in America


Week 5: Disciplining Reproduction


Week 6: Contraception and Sterilization


Week 7: Abortion


Week 8: Reproductive Governance


Week 9: Infertility and *In Vitro* Fertilization


Week 10: Assisting Reproduction


Week 11: Making Alternative Families


Week 12: Reproductive Aging

*Paper proposals are due at the beginning of class.


Week 13: Student Presentations

*No reading.*