

**Politics of Reproduction**  
SOCY 390/629  
Spring 2015  
Wednesday 2:30-4:20

**Professor Rene Almeling**  
Office: 493 College St., Room 309  
Office hours: W 4:30-5, Th 4:30-5, and by appt  
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## **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

--Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2000. *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of the Body*. New York: Basic Books. Pages 1-29, 233-255.

--Solinger, Rickie. 2005. *Pregnancy and Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics*. New York: New York University Press. Pages 1-25.

--Browner, Carole and Carolyn Sargent. 2011. *Reproduction, Globalization, and the State: New Theoretical and Ethnographic Perspectives*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Pages ix-xi, 1-21.

--Jordanova, Ludmilla. 1995. "Interrogating the Concept of Reproduction in the Eighteenth Century" in *Conceiving the New World Order*, edited by Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pages 346-86.

## **Week 3: Pregnancy**

--Ivry, Tsipy. 2010. *Embodying Culture: Pregnancy in Japan and Israel*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. Pages 1-33.

--Markens, Susan, Carole Browner, and Nancy Press. 1997. "Feeding the Fetus: On Interrogating the Notion Of Maternal-Fetal Conflict." *Feminist Studies* 23:351-72.

--Han, Sallie. 2013. *Pregnancy in Practice: Expectation and Experience in the Contemporary United States*. Berghahn. Pages 59-75.

--Reed, Kate. 2009. "It's them faulty genes again': Women, men and the gendered nature of genetic responsibility in prenatal blood screening." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 31: 343-359.

--Waggoner, Miranda R. 2013. "Motherhood preconceived: The emergence of the preconception health and health care initiative." *Journal of health politics, policy and law* 38: 345-371.

## **Week 4: Birth in America**

--Armstrong, Elizabeth M. 2000. "Lessons in control: Prenatal education in the hospital." *Social Problems*: 583-605.

--Leavitt, Judith Walzer. 2010. *Make Room for Daddy: The Journey from Waiting Room to Birthing Room*. University of North Carolina Press. Pages ix-xi, 48-85, 284-296.

--Martin, Karin A. 2003. "Giving Birth Like a Girl." *Gender & Society* 17:54-72.

--Morris, Theresa. 2013. *Cut It Out: The C-Section Epidemic in America*. New York: New York University Press. Pages 1-30.

--Bridges, Khiara. 2011. *Reproducing Race: An Ethnography of Pregnancy as a Site of Racialization*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 103-143.

## **Week 5: Disciplining Reproduction**

- Clarke, Adele. 1998. *Disciplining Reproduction: Modernity, American Life Sciences, and 'The Problems of Sex'* Berkeley: University of California Press. Pages 3-29, 233-258.
- Bell, Susan. 2009. *DES Daughters: Embodied Knowledge and the Transformation of Women's Health Politics*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Pages 1-14, 30-71.
- Almeling, Rene and Miranda R. Waggoner. 2013. "More and Less than Equal: How Men Factor in the Reproductive Equation." *Gender & Society* 27:821-842.

## **Week 6: Contraception and Sterilization**

- Roberts, Dorothy. 1997. *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty*. New York: Pantheon. Pages 56-103.
- Van Kammen, Jessika and Nelly E. J. Oudshoorn. 2002. "Gender and Risk Assessment in Contraceptive Technologies." *Sociology of Health and Illness* 24:436-461.
- Littlejohn, Krystale E. 2013. "'It's those Pills that are Ruining Me': Gender and the Social Meanings of Hormonal Contraceptive Side Effects." *Gender & Society* 27:843-863.
- Gutmann, Matthew. 2007. *Fixing Men: Sex, Birth Control, and AIDS in Mexico*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Page 1-46.

## **Week 7: Abortion**

- Beisel, Nicola and Tamara Kay. 2004. "Abortion, Race, and Gender in Nineteenth-Century America." *American Sociological Review* 69: 498-518.
- Petchesky, Rosalind. 1987. "Fetal Images: The Power of Visual Culture in the Politics of Reproduction." *Feminist Studies* 13: 263-92.
- Kligman, Gail. 1998. *The Politics of Duplicity: Controlling Reproduction in Ceausescu's Romania*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pages 1-18, 42-70, 148-151, and choose your own selections to read from 151-178 and 178-206.

## **Week 8: Reproductive Governance**

- Morgan, Lynn M and Elizabeth FS Roberts. 2012. "Reproductive Governance in Latin America." *Anthropology & Medicine* 19:241-254.
- Greenhalgh, Susan. 2003. "Science, Modernity, and the Making of China's One-Child Policy." *Population and Development Review* 29: 163-96
- Paltrow, Lynn and Jeanne Flavin. 2013. "Arrests of and forced interventions on pregnant women in the United States, 1973-2005: implications for women's legal status and public health." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, Law* 38: 299-343.
- Wentzell, Emily and Marcia Inhorn. 2014. "Reconceiving masculinity and 'men as partners' for ICPD Beyond 2014." *Global public health* 9: 691-705.

### **Week 9: Infertility and *In Vitro* Fertilization**

- Becker, Gay. 2000. *The Elusive Embryo: How Women and Men Approach New Reproductive Technologies*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pages 1-78.
- Bell, Ann. 2009. "It's Way Out of My League: Low-Income Women's Experiences of Medicalized Infertility." *Gender and Society* 23: 688-709.
- Inhorn, Marcia. 2007. "Masturbation, Semen Collection, and Men's IVF Experiences: Anxieties in the Muslim World." *Body and Society* 13: 37-53.

### **Week 10: Assisting Reproduction**

- Almeling, Rene. 2011. *Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pages 1-21, 52-83.
- Markens, Susan. 2007. *Surrogate Motherhood and the Politics of Reproduction*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pages 1-20.
- Teman, Elly. 2009. "Embodying Surrogate Motherhood: Pregnancy as a Dyadic Body-project." *Body & Society* 15:47-69.
- Pande, Amrita. 2010. "Commercial Surrogacy in India: Manufacturing a Perfect Mother-Worker." *Signs* 35:969-992.

### **Week 11: Making Alternative Families**

- Lewin, Ellen. 2009. *Gay Fatherhood: Narratives of Family and Citizenship in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pages 1-75.
- Mamo, Laura. 2007. *Queering Reproduction: Achieving Pregnancy in the Age of Technoscience* Durham: Duke University Press. Pages 86-127.
- Hertz, Rosanna. 2006. *Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice: How Women are Choosing Parenthood Without Marriage and Creating the New American Family*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pages xv-xviii, 3-20.

### **Week 12: Reproductive Aging**

- \**Paper proposals are due at the beginning of class.*
- Friese, Carrie, Gay Becker, and Robert Nachtigall. 2006. "Rethinking the Biological Clock: Eleventh-hour moms, miracle moms, and meanings of age-related infertility." *Social Science & Medicine* 63: 1550-60.
- Waldby, Catherine. 2014. "'Banking time': egg freezing and the negotiation of future fertility." *Culture, Health & Sexuality*. Pages 1-13.
- Lambert, S, P Masson, and Harry Fisch. 2006. "The male biological clock." *World Journal of Urology* 24: 611-17.
- Shirani, Fiona. 2013. "The Spectre of the Wheezy Dad: Masculinity, Fatherhood and Ageing." *Sociology* 47: 1104-19
- Dillaway, Heather E. 2005. "Menopause is the 'Good Old': Women's Thoughts about Reproductive Aging." *Gender & Society* 19:398-417.

### **Week 13: Student Presentations**

- \**No reading.*