

TITLE OF COURSE AND COURSE NUMBER: Reproductive Rights
WS 314/ CMHL 314 Credits - 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

This course explores the multifaceted and complex issues related to reproductive rights from an interdisciplinary perspective. The controversies surrounding reproductive technologies, pregnancy and childbirth, birth control, foster care, abortion, and adoption will be explored with particular focus on public policy and its impact on the private lives of individual women.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: WS 110 or WS 150 or AAACS 150 and CMHL 120 or PEGE 150

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. examine historical attitudes and policies related to women's bodies and their reproductive options.
2. review literature on reproductive rights and its critique of women being
3. defined by their reproductive, sexual, and childbearing functions.
4. compare the changing roles of men in reproductive decisions.
5. understand the impact of various reproductive decisions on a woman's body, physical, emotional, social, and sexual health.
6. examine the influence of race, class, gender, ethnicity, age and sexual orientation on various reproductive decisions.
7. become aware of the evolution of healthcare practices related to reproduction and reproductive control, with particular emphasis on the women's health movement.
8. examine changes in law at the federal and state levels related to reproductive rights.
9. Review the political impact of organizations involved with reproductive rights, whether from a pro-choice position or restricted options position.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

In addition to the above Student Learning Outcomes, all WPU students will be able to:

1. Effectively express themselves in written and oral form by writing papers and presenting research to the class.
2. Demonstrate the ability to think critically by exploring controversies related to all topics.
3. Locate and use information through library and Internet research.
4. Demonstrate ability to integrate knowledge and ideas in a coherent and meaningful manner through written and oral work.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF THE COURSE CONTENT:

A. Historical Perspectives on Reproduction

1. Role of women in the family
2. Role of men in the family
3. Access to means of controlling fertility
4. Legal and religious policies related to fertility
5. Critiques of philosophy and practice

B. The Biology of Reproduction and Reproductive Control

1. Anatomy and physiology of male and female reproductive parts
2. Processes of pregnancy and childbirth
3. Birth Control Options
4. Abortion Options

C. Reproductive Technologies

1. Sperm donation
2. Ova donation
3. In-vitro fertilization
4. Surrogacy
5. Cryopreservation

D. Pregnancy and Childbirth

1. Older parents
2. Lesbian Pregnancies- insemination, available services
3. HIV/AIDS
4. Alcohol and drug use
5. Hospital/birth center policies and practice
6. Workplace issues
7. Healthcare coverage

E. Birth Control Options and the Law

1. State by state comparisons
2. International Family Planning Funding
3. Emergency Contraception
4. Teen notification laws
5. Access to health care

F. Abortion

1. Women's experience prior to Roe v. Wade
2. Practice post Roe v. Wade
3. Services available
4. Current controversies

G. Adoption

1. Women's experience prior to Roe v. Wade
2. Practice post Roe v. Wade
3. International adoption
4. Private adoption
5. Gay and Lesbian adoption
6. On-line adoption
7. Adoption Scams
8. Single parent adoption

H. Foster Care

1. Parental Rights
2. National and State Policies
3. Controversies

I. Reproductive Rights Organizations

1. Planned Parenthood
2. NARAL
3. NOW
4. NJ Right to Choose
5. Resolve
6. Others

J. Anti-Choice Organizations

1. Birthright
2. Operation Rescue
3. Right to Life
4. Others

GUIDELINES/SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING METHODS AND STUDENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

1. Class Discussions
2. Small Group Discussions
3. Reading Assignments
4. Multi-media- e.g., videos, slides, etc.
5. Guest speakers
6. Student research presentations

GUIDELINES/SUGGESTIONS FOR METHODS OR STUDENT ASSESSMENT (OUTCOMES):

1. Evaluation of student papers.
2. Evaluation of student research/presentations.

SUGGESTED READINGS, TEXT, OBJECTS OF STUDY:

Fineman M.A., and Karpin, I., ed. (1995) Mothers in Law: Feminist Theory and the Legal Regulation of Motherhood. New York: Columbia University Press.

Meyer, C.L. The Wandering Uterus: Politics and the Reproductive Rights of Women. New York: New York University Press, 1997.

Patterson, R. N. Protect and Defend. New York: Dell, 2001

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SUPPORTIVE TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS:

Abrams, N. () The Other Mother: A Lesbian's Fight for Her Daughter. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Press.

Bonovoliga, A. ed. (1991) The Choices We Made. New York: Random House

Boston Women's Health Book Collective. (1998) The New Our Bodies, Ourselves. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Carlson, K., Eisenstat, S., and Ziporyn, T. (1996) The Harvard Guide to Women's Health. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Critchlow, D.T. (1999). Intended Consequences: Birth Control, Abortion, And the Federal Government in Modern America. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hatcher, R.A., et al. (1998.) Contraceptive Technology: (17th Ed.) New York: Ardent Media, Inc.

Messer, E., and May, K. (1988) Back Rooms: An Oral History of the Illegal Abortion Era. New York: Touchstone Books.

NARAL, (2001) Who Decides? At State-by-State of Abortion and Reproductive Rights. Washington, D.C.: NARAL Foundation.

Pillai, V.K. and Wang, G. (1999) Women's Reproductive Rights in Developing Countries. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing.

Pojman, L, and Beckwith, F. (1998) The Abortion Controversy: 25 Years After Roe v. Wade. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

_____, (2002) Hope and Realities: Closing the Gap Between Women's Aspirations and Their Reproductive Experiences. New York: United Nations Publications.

_____, (2002) The Right to Choose: Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health. New York: United Nations Publications.

Wingood, G., and DiClemente, R. (ed) (2002) Handbook of Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Boston, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishing.

PREPARER'S NAME AND DATE: Dr. Jean Levitan, 2002

REVISER'S NAME AND DATE: Dr. Arlene Holpp Scala, December 1, 2004

DEPARTMENTAL REVISION APPROVAL DATE: December 1, 2004