New York University
PERSPECTIVES ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE
E33.2374.001

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Course description

In this course, students will develop an understanding of the impact of policies and the provision of services on the health disparities in reproductive health care. Within a framework of reproductive justice, students will examine the background and development of family planning, prenatal care, HIV/AIDS and abortion services in the United States as they relate to gender roles, attitudes about sexuality, institutional racism and health care service delivery. Students will develop analytical skills as well as the latest techniques for health education as they examine the most challenging issues and current research in the field of reproductive health.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Define healthy sexuality and describe its relationship to reproductive health care
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the critical issues related to reproductive health care in the United States
3. Exhibit health education skills associated with reproductive health care
4. Describe the impact of U.S. public policies on the provision of reproductive health care

PRIMARY READINGS

The Boston Women's Health Book Collective. Our Bodies, Ourselves. Anew edition for a new era Simon and Schuster. 2005
Solinger, Rickie, Beggars and Choosers: How the Politics of Choice Shapes Adoption, Abortion, and Welfare in the United States. Hill and Wang, 2001

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Required reading prior to class
2. Regular attendance and class participation
3. **Term paper**: Each student will be asked to submit a brief description of the proposed topic for the final paper no later than the class on **October 1**. The final paper topic should deal with a pressing issue/problem/question or controversy in the field of reproductive health. This description should include:
    - the problem statement,

- what makes this an important issue in women's health,
- what are the controversial aspects and the different perspectives on the issue, and
- what are some resources for research on the different positions on this issue.

Potential sources of information, i.e. internet sites, books, journal articles
The final paper should include:

1) the significance of the issue/problem/question,
2) the background information,
3) a brief narrative about what is known about the issue/problem/question, and the different perspectives on the issue,
4) an analysis of the issue from the evidence presented.

Only one person can choose a specific problem or question. If more than one person chooses a topic, you may be asked to find another one. The paper should be well researched, but not more than 10 pages in length, not including the bibliography. The paper is due no later than **December 3**. In addition, you will be asked to make a 5 to 10 minute presentation on the major findings in your paper in one of the last classes in the semester.

4. **Class Presentation:** Students are expected to present a summary of their paper within 7-10 minutes (depending on class size) on **December 10**. The presentation should briefly state the topic, what is controversial about the topic, a discussion and conclusion. It is suggested that students practice their presentation before class to be certain of conforming to the time constraints. The presentation shouldn't be read, however students can and should use overheads to stress the main points.

5. **Journal/Newspaper Article(s):** In addition to the assigned reading, each student is expected to find one journal article taken from one of the journals suggested below or a series of newspaper articles on a class topic and bring a short (one page) typed discussion of the content. These articles should identify current research related to the class topic. The student should be prepared to discuss the article and its relevance to the readings for the class.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Class Participation: 25%
Class participation is very important. Students who have not done the readings and participated actively in class will be graded accordingly. The instructor must be informed if a student is going to miss a class.
Journal/newspaper article(s): 25%
Paper: 30%
Presentation: 20%

COURSE OUTLINE

I. September 10: Introduction to Course: Overview and Definitions

II. September 17: Poverty, Gender and Reproductive Health

Readings:

The Boston Women's Health Book Collective. *The politics of women's health* in. Our bodies, our selves: A new edition for a new era. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005 pp. 719-748

Solinger, Chs. 1 and 6

Sillman J, Fried MG, Ross L, Gutierez ER. Women of color and their struggle for reproductive justice. Undivided rights: women of color organize for reproductive justice .Cambridge, MA. South End Press. 2004. Chapter 1, pp 1-23

Geronimus AT. Understanding and Eliminating Racial Inequalities in Women's Health in the United States: The Role of the Weathering Conceptual Framework, *JAMWA*, 56(4) Fall 2001:133-136.

http://jamwa.amwa-doc.org/vol56/toc56_4.htm

III. September 24: Human Sexuality

Readings:

The Boston Women's Health Book Collective. *Gender Identity and sexual orientation* in. Our bodies, our selves: A new edition for a new era. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005 pp.141-154

The Boston Women's Health Book Collective *Sexuality*, in. Our bodies, our selves: A new edition for a new era. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005. pp. 186 -225.

Meston CM, Buss DM. Why humans have sex. *Arch Sex Behav* (2007) 36:477-507

Weeks J. Sexuality London: Tavistock Publications. 1986

Chapter 1: *The language of sex* pp.11-18 and Chapter 2: *The invention of sexuality* pp.19-44.

IV. October 1: Sexual and Reproductive Health Over the Life cycle

Readings:

Geronimus, A. Teenage childbearing and personal responsibility

Weinberger, DR, Elvegag B, Giedd JN, *The adolescent brain; A work in progress.* National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. 2005

http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/BRAIN.pdf

V. October 15: : Unintended Pregnancy

Reading:

Finer LB, Henshaw SK. Disparities in rates of unintended pregnancy in the United Sates, 1994-2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 38(2): 90-96. 2006

http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3809006.html

Jones RK, Singh S, Finer L, Frohwirth LF. *Repeat abortion in the United States.* Occasional report No. 29, Guttmacher Institute. November 2006

http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2006/11/21/or29.pdf
The Boston Women's Health Book Collective. *Unexpected pregnancy*., in. Our bodies, our selves: A new edition for a new era. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005. pp. 381-389.

VI. October 22.:Interviewing and Counseling – Basic Principles and Techniques
Reading:
Planned Parenthood of New York City. *Counseling Manual.*
Breitbart V. Counseling for Medical Abortion. ACOG Journal of OB/GYN***. Special Issue on Medical Abortion. Spring 2000.***
Garrity JM, Castle MA. *A Physician's guide to patient-centered care: Providing support to women during first-trimester abortion procedures*. Planned Parenthood of New York City. 1996

VII. October 29: Family Planning – Background and Politics
Readings:
Gordon L. *The prohibition on birth control* , in Gordon L. Woman's Body, Woman's Right. New York Penguin Books. 1976. pp. 3-25.
Gordon L. *The prohibition on birth control* , in Gordon L. Woman's Body, Woman's Right. New York Penguin Books. 1976. pp. 3-25.
Allan Guttmacher Institute. *Fulfilling the promise: Public policy and U.S. Family Planning Clinics.* New York: Allan Guttmacher Institute. 2000
http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/fulfill.html

VIII. November 5: Family Planning – Contraceptive Methods
Reading:
The Boston Women's Health Book Collective. *Birth Control*, in. Our bodies, our selves: A new edition for a new era. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005 pp.322-381.
Jones RK, Darroch JE, Henshaw SK. Contraceptive use among U.S. women having abortions in 2000-2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 34(6) November/December, 2002: 294- 303.
http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3429402./html

IX. November 12: : Abortion – Background and Politics
Readings:
Solinger, Ch. 2
Fried MG, Clarke S. Expanding Abortion Access: The US Experience in Klugman B, Budlender D eds. *Advocating for Abortion Access: Eleven Country Studies*. Women's Health Project, School of Public Health, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. 2000.
Henshaw SK, Finer LB. The accessibility of abortion services in the United States, 2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 35(1): 16-24 2003

X. November 19: Abortion – Options
Readings:
The Boston Women's Health Book Collective. *Abortion* in. Our bodies, our selves: A new edition for a new era.. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005 pp.389-417
Finer LB, Henshaw SK. Abortion Incidence and Services in the United States in 2000. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 35(1) 2003 : 6-15.

http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3500603.html
Finer LB, et al. Reasons U.S. women have abortions: Quantitative and qualitative perspectives. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* , 37 (3) Sept. 2005: 110 – 118.
http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3711005.html

XI. November 21: Pregnancy and childbirth
Readings:
The Boston Women's Health Book Collective *Childbearing* in Our bodies, our selves. *pp.417-525.*
Strong, TH,Jr. MD. Expecting Trouble:The myth of prenatal care in America. New York University Press: New York. 2000 pp. 1-58

XII. November 26: Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS
Readings:
Weinstock H, Berman S and Cates W. Sexually transmitted diseases among American youth: Incidence and prevalence estimates, 2000. *Perspective on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 36(1) 2004: 6-10.
Burke C . *Sexually transmitted diseases* in The Boston Women's Health Book Collective. Our bodies, our selves: For the new century. New York: Simon and Schuster. 1998
The Boston Women's Health Book Collective *Sexually Transmitted Infections/ HIV and AIDS*, in. Our bodies, our selves: A new edition for a new era. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005. pp. 272-307.

XIII December 3: Violence and Reproductive Health
Readings:
The Boston Women's Health Book Collective *Violence and abuse*, in. Our bodies, our selves: A new edition for a new era. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005. Pp. 118-139
Zeitler M, Paine A, Breitbart V**,** Rickert V, Olson C, Stevens L, Rottenberg L, Davidson L. Attitudes About Intimate Partner Violence Screening Among an Ethnically Diverse Sample of Young Women. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 39 (2006)

XIV December 10: Issues in Reproductive Health
Discussion of paper topics

New York University

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Allan Guttmacher Institute. *Readings on men*. New York: Allan Guttmacher Institute. 1996.

Allan Guttmacher Institute. *Fulfilling the promise: Public policy and U.S. family planning clinics*. New York: Allan Guttmacher Institute. 2000

Allan Guttmacher Institute. *In their own right: Addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of men worldwide*. New York: Allan Guttmacher Institute. March 2003.

Baker A. *Abortion and options counseling: A comprehensive reference*. Granite City, IL: The Hope Clinic for Women; 1995.

Baker A, Beresford T, Halvorson-Boyd G, Garrity JM. Informed consent, counseling, and patient preparation. In: Paul M, Lichtenberg ES, Borgatta L, Grimes DA, Stubblefield PG, editors. *A clinician's guide to medical and surgical abortion.* New York: Churchill Livingstone; 1999. p. 25-37.

Bayer R. *Private Acts, Social Consequences: AIDS and the politics of public health.* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. 1991.

The Boston Women's Health Book Collective. Our bodies, our selves: A new edition for a new era. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005

Brandt AM. *No Magic Bullet: A sexual history of venereal disease in the U.S. since 1880*. New York: Oxford. 1987.

Breitbart V. Counseling for Medical Abortion. *ACOG Journal of OB/GYN*. Special Issue on Medical Abortion. Spring 2000.

Breitbart V, Repass DC, The counseling component of medical abortion. *JAMWA.* Special Issue on Medical Abortion. Spring 2000.

Breitbart V, Rogers K, VanDerHei D. Medical abortion service delivery. *ACOG Journal of OB/GYN*. Special Issue on Medical Abortion. Spring 2000.

Breitbart V, Castle MA, Walsh K, Casanova C. The impact of patient experience on practice: The acceptability of emergency contraceptive pills in inner-city clinics. *JAMWA* 1998; 53 (5).

Breitbart V, Chavkin W, Wise P. Accessibility of Drug Treatment for Pregnant Women. *AJPH* 1994; 84(10).

Breitbart V, Layton C, Chavkin W, Rawding N, Wise P. Model Programs Addressing Perinatal Drug Exposure and HIV Infection: Integrating Women's and Children's Needs. *The Bulletin of the N.Y. Academy of Medicine*. l994; 71 (2).

Chavkin W, Breitbart V, Elman D, Wise PH. National survey of the states: Policies and practices regarding drug-using pregnant women. *AJPH* January 1998; 88(1).

Chavkin W, Breitbart V. Substance abuse and maternity: The U.S. as case study. *Addiction* 1997; 92(2)

Chavkin W, Breitbart V. Reproductive Health and the Blurred Professional Boundaries. *Women's Health Issue*. l996; 6(2).

Chavkin W, Breitbart V, Wise, P. Efforts to Reduce Perinatal Mortality, HIV and Drug Addiction: Survey of the States. *JAMWA* l995;15(5).

Chavkin W, Breitbart V, Wise P. Finding Common Ground: The Necessity of an Integrated Agenda for Women's and Children's Health. *The Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics.* 1994; 22(3).

Commonwealth Fund Commission on Women's Health. *Addressing Domestic Violence and its Consequences: Policy report of the Commonwealth Fund Commission on Women's Health.* 1998.

Creinin MD, Aubeny E. Medical abortion in early pregnancy. In: Paul M, Lichtenberg ES, Borgatta L, Grimes DA, Stubblefield PG, editors. *A clinician's guide to medical and surgical abortion.* New York: Churchill Livingstone; 1999. pp. 91-106.

Finer LB, Henshaw SK. Disparities in rates of unintended pregnancy in the United Sates, 1994-2001. Perspectives on sexual and reproductive health 38(2): 90-96. 2006

Finer LB, Henshaw SK. Abortion Incidence and Services in the United States in 2000. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 35(1) 2003 pp. 6-15.

Finer LB, et al. Reasons U.S. women have abortions: *Quantitative and qualitative perspectives. Perspective* on Sexual and Reproductive Health , 37 (3) Sept. 2005, pp. 110 – 118.

Fried, MG. Abortion in the United States: Legal and inaccessible, in Solinger R. (ed.*) Abortion Wars*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1998. pp. 208 – 226.

Frost JJ, Singh S and Finer LB. Factors associated with contraceptive use and nonuse, United States, 2004. *Perspective on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 39 (2) June 2007.

Garrity J, Castle M. *A physician's guide to patient-centered counseling: providing support to women during first-trimester abortion procedures*. New York: Planned Parenthood of New York City; 1996

Gilligan, C. *In a different voice: psychological theory and women's development.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press. l982

Gordon L. *Woman's Body, woman's Right*. New York Penguin Books. 1976.

Grimes DA. The morbidity and mortality of pregnancy: Still risky business. *Am J of Ob Gyn.* 1994 170(5); 489-94

Hatcher RA, Trussell J, Stewart F, Stewart GK, Cates Jr. W, Stewart GK, Guest F, Kowal D, *Contraceptive technology*. New York: Irvington Publishers, Inc. 1998

Henshaw S. Abortion incidence and services in the United States, 1995-1996. *Family Planning Perspectives.* 1998, 30(6)

Henshaw S. The accessibility of abortion services in the United States, 2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 35(1) 2003 pp. 16-24.

Henshaw S Unintended pregnancy in the United States. *Family Planning Perspectives*. 1998, 30 (1) 24-29 & 46

Joffe C., Anderson, and Steinhauer J. The crisis in abortion provision and pro-choice medical activism in the 1990s, in Solinger R. (ed.*) Abortion Wars*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1998. pp. 320 – 333.

Jones RK, Singh S, Finer L, Frohwirth LF. Repeat abortion I the United States. Occasional report No. 29, Guttmacher Institute. November 2006

Klugman B, Budlender D. *Advocating for abortion access: eleven country studies.* The Women's Health Project, School of Public Health, South Africa. 2000.

Lieman, J. et al. *Health care reform: What is at stake for women? Report of the Commonwealth Fund Commission on women's health.* New York: The commonwealth Fund. 1994

Luker K. *Abortion and the politics of motherhood*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1984.

Luker K. *Dubious conceptions: The politics of teenage pregnancy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1996

Mason C. Killing for Life:the apocalyptic narrative of pro-life politics. Cornell University Press. 2002.

Meston CM, Buss DM. Why humans have sex. *Arch Sex Behav* (2007) 36:477-507

Moss KL, ed. *Man-made medicine: women's health, public policy, and reform.* Durham: Duke University Press. . (1991

National Abortion Federation. *Facts Sheets.* Washington D.C.: National Abortion Federation. 1999

Petchesky RP. *Abortion and woman's choice: The state, sexuality and reproductive freedom*. Boston: Northeaster University Press. 1990.

Ritchie B. AIDS: In living color in White EC (ed.). *The black women's health book.* Seattle: Seal Press. 1990 pp. 182-186.

Ross LJ. African American Women and Abortion, in Solinger R. (ed.*) Abortion Wars.* Berkeley: University of California Press. 1998. pp. 161-207.

Sable MR et al. Male Hispanics immigrants talk about family planning. J Health Care for the Poor and Underserved 17(2006)

Sheldon, S. *Unwilling fathers and abortion: Terminating men's child support obligations?* Modern Law Review, 2003

Sillman J, Fried MG, Ross L, Gutierez ER. Women of color and their struggle for reproductive justice. *Undivided rights: women of color organize for reproductive justice.* Cambridge, MA. South End Press. 2004.

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Stark E. *Coercive control: How men entrap women in personal life.* New York, Oxford Press. 2007

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Weinstock H, Berman S and Cates W. Sexually transmitted diseases among American youth: Incidence and prevalence estimates, 2000. *Perspective on Sexual and Reproductive Health,* 36(1) 2004: 6-10.

Weisman CS. *Women's health care: Activist traditions and institutional change.* Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press. 1998.

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Zeitler M, Paine A, Breitbart V**,** Rickert V, Olson C, Stevens L, Rottenberg L, Davidson L. Attitudes About Intimate Partner Violence Screening Among an Ethnically Diverse Sample of Young Women. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 39 (2006)

Suggested Journals include:

Journal of the American Women's Medical Association (JAMWA),
American Journal of Public Health, JAMA,
International Journal of Community Epidemiology,
Health Education Quarterly,
International Journal of Health Education,
Perspective on Sexual and Reproductive Health,
International Family Planning Perspectives,
Journal of Family Violence,
Journal of Adolescent Health,
Journal of Interpersonal Violence,
Social Science & Medicine
Women Studies International Forum
Reproductive Health Matters