GSWS 320-4: Special Topics in GSWS:
A Womb of One’s Own?: Feminisms Engaging Reproduction

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Office hours: TBD
Lecture: Thursdays, 13:30 – 17:20, HCC 1530

Course Description:
In this course, we develop tools to analyze narratives, issues, practices, and arguments regarding reproduction. We define reproduction not simply as a biological fact of life, but a ‘naturalcultural' phenomenon where biology and culture collide in the continuance and dynamism of humans through generations. Students learn how to think critically about a wide range of issues in reproduction using tools provided by feminist theorists and researchers. Recognizing the topical and controversial nature of debates on reproduction as well as the role of GSWS in transforming students into critical advocates for social change, assignments encourage students to engage in public dialogues on reproduction. Topics include biomedicine, reproductive politics, reproductive technologies, and gendered, racialized, and sexed roles.

Educational Goals:
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of a wide range of issues pertaining to reproduction
- Analyze reproduction from a naturalcultural perspective
- Participate meaningfully in public debates on reproduction
- Mobilize multimedia and collaborative skills for feminist ends

Course Texts and Courseware:
- All readings on Canvas

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- 15% Participation and attendance
- 25% Opinion editorial; due week 6
  Write a ~1200 word opinion-editorial about a contemporary issue in reproductive politics that you have read or heard about in media (newspaper, TV, internet), or have personally experienced
- 25% Film review of Handmaid’s Tale OR Any Day Now; due week 10
  Write a ~1200 word film review, discussing issues of reproductive politics addressed in the film and critically appraising them according to feminist insights developed in the course.
- 35% Group project; due weeks 12 and 13
  In groups of 3-4, analyze a contemporary issue in reproductive politics. Creative approaches and/or use of multimedia including film, theatre/dance, art, and posters are encouraged, as are projects with public engagement/outreach components, such as blogs, journals/zines, twitter feeds, or letter writing. Give a 30-minute presentation of your project and analysis is to the class in either week 12 or 13. Collaboratively write 10-12-page report on your case study, to be submitted on the final day of class.

Prerequisite: 15 units
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to naturalculturalism

Week 2: Feminisms on reproduction


Week 3: Reproductive representationalism


Week 4: Reproductive choices


Week 5: Reproductive technologies


Week 6: ‘Good’ mothering


Week 7: Kinship


Week 8: Policing reproduction


Week 9: Childbirthing


Week 10: Fatherhood


Week 11: Lifecourses

Weeks 12-13: In class presentations of group projects