

Fall 2008 University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
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## **HIS 530: WOMEN AND REPRODUCTION IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY UNITED STATES**

This course will examine the diversity of women's reproductive experiences in the twentieth century United States. Topics include birth control, abortion, sterilization, infertility, childbirth, and pregnancy. We will explore how women's relationship to reproduction has changed over time, paying particular attention to the way that race and class have intersected with gender to shape women's experiences. Students will read historical accounts that explore the lives of ordinary women, using oral history, archival research, and public policy analysis. The course will end with a brief exploration of women's postwar political organizing surrounding reproductive issues.

**Required Texts:** (available at UNCG bookstore, Addams bookstore on Tate Street, and on reserve at Jackson library)

*Undergraduate and Graduate Students:*

Ann Fessler, *The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades Before Roe v. Wade*. New York: Penguin, 2006.

Jennifer Nelson, *Women of Color and the Reproductive Rights Movement*. New York: New York University Press, 2005.

Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*. New York: Pantheon, 1997.

Johanna Schoen, *Choice and Coercion: Birth Control, Sterilization, and Abortion in Public Health and Welfare*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

*Graduate Students only:*

Leslie J. Reagan, *When Abortion Was a Crime: Women, Medicine, and Law in the United States, 1867-1973*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997.

Wendy Kline, *Building a Better Race: Gender, Sexuality, and Eugenics from the Turn of the Century to the Baby Boom*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

### **Course Requirements (all percentages are approximate):**

*Undergraduates:*

**Synthetic Papers (3-5 pages, 2 x 20%):** You will write two synthetic papers based on the weekly readings. The papers will require you to make an original argument about the course materials.

**Short Annotated Bibliography (20%):** You will choose one topic to delve into in further detail. You will collect 4-6 books and articles on the history of your topic and produce an annotated bibliography that describes the main arguments of each scholarly work that you have read. At least two entries must be full-length books.

Four Blackboard Posts (15%): Before four of our class sessions (excluding the final week), you must post a response to the readings on blackboard by 9pm on the Tuesday before our class meeting. You may post again after 9pm, but your first post is due by then. Your first blackboard post should demonstrate that you have read all of the required readings and thought deeply about them. The post should engage the arguments of the readings and bring up issues and ideas that you believe are important for the class to consider. You should also use blackboard to respond to posts by other students and to engage in discussion and debate. Students who have not signed up to post for a particular week are welcome to join the discussion but it is not required. Everyone must come to class having read other students' posts on blackboard. Blackboard posts must use correct grammar and spelling.

Attendance and participation (25%): Since this is a seminar that meets weekly, attendance and participation are mandatory. If you will find it impossible to attend class each week or participate on an ongoing basis you will not be able to succeed in the course. I expect everyone to make thorough notes on the readings and bring them to class to help you to contribute effectively to the discussion. You will be graded on the quality and frequency of your participation.

*Graduate Students:*

Graduate students must meet the following requirements. The goals of these requirements are mostly the same as those described above for undergraduates.

Readings: Graduate Students will read two additional books and discuss them at separate meetings.

Synthetic Papers (5-7 pages, 2 x 20%): Graduate students' synthetic papers will be longer in length than undergraduates' papers.

Short Annotated Bibliography (20%): Graduate students' annotated bibliography must list 6-8 items (including at least 3 full-length books).

Six Blackboard Posts (15%): Graduate students must post responses to four of the readings shared with undergraduates and both of graduate student readings.

Attendance and participation (25%): Mandatory.

I will use the following grading scale: 99 and above A+, 93 and above A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82 B-, 78-79 C+, 73-77 C, 70-72 C-, 68-69 D+, 63-67 D, 60-62 D-, 59 and below F.

**Technology: E-mail, Blackboard, Power Point, Laptops, and Cell Phones**

E-mail is the best way to reach me. I will always confirm receipt of messages and try to respond quickly. If you do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your message and try again. If you do not receive confirmation of your message, it means that I did not receive it and you will not be credited for any information that you communicated.

I will use e-mail to contact you, so you must check your UNCG email account regularly. All messages will be sent to UNCG accounts.

The course will have a blackboard website, which will have a copy of the syllabus, assignments, and links to additional readings.

This is an interactive class that requires your engaged attention. You may *not* use laptops in the classroom. Cell phones and any other electronic equipment must also be turned off at all times

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of others without giving them credit. Any source that you use in your work (i.e. books, documents, articles, internet sites) must be properly cited. If you use someone else's exact words they must be enclosed in quotation marks and be followed by a citation. If you put someone else's ideas into your own words, you must also use a citation.

Anyone who commits plagiarism will be penalized severely. For more information, see UNCG's academic integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

I report all cases of plagiarism to the Dean of Students.