Course Description
Reproductive politics have been key issues both transnationally and domestically. People travel internationally to contract with surrogates, or to assemble gametes for IVG or other ARTs. Workers migrate from one country to another to support households, sometimes leaving children and elders behind in their own countries. Within the United States, racially minoritized communities have fought for the ability to raise children and live in safe and sustainable communities. Some socialist feminists and women of color feminists have operated from the broadest understanding of what constitutes reproduction, including all the things necessary for households to raise children: schools, nutrition, housing, health, and safety. With the recent Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health decision, the Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade, and thus access to safe and accessible abortion in the U.S. is more threatened than ever, even as publics in Argentina and Ireland have demanded – and won! – the right to legal abortion in the past few years. Some key concepts we will be using to examine these and other pressing topics include “reproductive governance,” “stratified reproduction” and “reproductive justice.”

Readings
I have assigned a mix between journal articles, think pieces, book chapters, and other texts. Readings should be done for the date they are listed under on the syllabus. Sometimes I assign only excerpts of a reading, so please pay careful attention to page numbers. Everything without a link on this syllabus is available for free on Moodle.

Office Hours
While I’m available before/after class & over email for discussion, office hours are a great opportunity to discuss challenges you’re having in class or to review feedback from previous assignments. While I’m not able to review assignment drafts, we can discuss your ideas and brainstorm writing strategies. To set up an office hours appointment send me an email with your availability & what you want to discuss – we’ll set something up!

Course Requirements & Evaluation

1. Active Participation (25%)
Based primarily on participation and attendance. Participation includes full-group discussion, small group discussion (I often have students work in pairs or in groups of 3-5), and active listening to your peers. Students should engage with the readings, but can also build connections to their own lives, to other classes, or to current events. Students who earn an “A” participate often and with a high level of critical engagement, showing that they understand and are able to articulate key course concepts.

Students are also expected to attend group office hours that will be held during Weeks Three & Four. More on that to follow.

I don’t take attendance so won’t mark you down for each absence. However, if your absences become frequent enough that I can’t gauge your typical level of participation – then that’s something that would affect your grade. I don’t have formal mid-semester check-ins for participation and attendance, but at any point during the semester you can feel free to reach out to me for feedback, and I’m happy to work with you to set goals for the remainder of the semester. That’s something we could discuss in office hours.
2. Short Essays (45%) – Each short essay (2-3 pages) is worth 15% of final grade. I will make the prompts and rubrics available at least one week before the deadline.

Short Analysis of Course Readings – Due Friday 9/30 (15%)
Short Analysis of Course Readings – Due Friday 10/14 (15%)
Short Reflection Paper – Due Friday 11/4 (15%)

3. Final Project (30%) – Each student will be asked to select a social or political issue (domestic or inter/transnational) that can be analyzed through the lens of reproductive governance, stratified reproduction, and/or reproductive justice. This assignment is not meant to replicate what we’ve already covered, so you’ll need to choose a different topic or stake out a specific sub-topic within something we’ve already covered. The early proposal will let me give feedback, and the final paper won’t be due until after the in-class presentations.

Final Project Proposal – Due Tuesday 11/15 (3%)
Final Project Presentation – In-Class, Tues 12/6 or Thurs 12/8 (5%)
Final Project Paper (5 Pages) – Due Tuesday 12/20 (22%)

Disability & General Accommodations
Whether or not you have official disability accommodations, I encourage you to meet with me in office hours or send me an email to discuss any issues you may anticipate this semester. The sooner we talk, the better! I understand that we’re living in a pandemic and that you all are not only taking other classes, but also negotiating a wide range of other stressors and responsibilities. Which is to say that I’ll do my best to reasonably accommodate your needs. Don’t hesitate to reach out.

COVID-Safety and Precautions
All students should follow university guidelines regarding vaccination, testing, and masks. Since UMass no longer includes classmates or instructors in contact tracing, if you test positive, you are welcome (although not required) to share your results so others can get tested. Remember that I do not track attendance, so if you’ve been exposed or are concerned about your symptoms, you won’t be penalized for missing class. Thanks for taking care of yourselves and each other!

Academic Honesty & Writing Support
I expect you to write your own original content and adhere to high levels of academic honesty. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary action and will receive an “F” in the course. You are encouraged to read and discuss course topics widely; however, use your own words and cite others when you’re referencing ideas that are not your own. I’m a resource, as well as the research librarians and the Writing Center, which provides free help by appointment.
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/avoiding_plagiarism/documents/plagiarism_one_pager.pdf

Week One – Intersectionality & Care Work

Tues September 6

Please read the syllabus for our first meeting! Come with questions 😊
Thurs September 8


**Week Two – Stratified Reproduction, Reproductive Justice, and Reproductive Governance**

Tues September 13


Thurs September 15 **Guest Speaker – Esther Anne Victoria Moraes (UMass – Amherst)**


**Week Three – Criminalizing & Regulating Families: A Racial Project**

Tues September 20


Thurs September 22


**Week Four – Histories of Medical Racism**

Tues September 27 – Class Cancelled (Rosh Hashanah)

Thurs September 29 – Guest Speaker: Patrice Wright – University of Virginia)

Week Five – Criminalizing & Regulating Families: A Nationalist Project

Tues October 4


Thurs October 6


Week Six – Transnational Surrogacy and Assisted Reproductive Technologies

Tues October 11


Thurs October 13


Week Seven – Development, Nonprofits, and the “Problems” of Teen Pregnancy & Overpopulation

Tues October 18


Thurs October 20

1. 10 Reasons to Rethink Overpopulation – Population & Development Program @ Hampshire
Week Eight – More than the Nuclear Family: How We Take Care of Each Other

**Tues October 25**


**Thurs October 27**


Week Nine – Trans (Reproductive) Futures: Finding the Joy in Trans Parenthood

**Tues November 1** – Guest Speaker – Petrona Xemi Tapepechul


**Thurs November 3**


Week Ten – Fighting for Abortion Access: Cases of U.S. and Latin America

**Tues November 8** – Guest Lecture – Lexi Dotson-Dufault (Abortion Fund of Ohio)

1. WeTestify (National Network of Abortion Funds). “Abortion Explained” (explore the site) [https://www.wetestify.org/abortion-explained](https://www.wetestify.org/abortion-explained)

**Thurs November 10**

Week Eleven – Researching Reproduction and Social Change

Tues November 15


Thurs November 17 Guest Lecture: Bahar Aldanmaz (Boston University)


No Class on Tuesday 11/22 (Friday Schedule) or 11/24 (Thanksgiving Break)

Week Twelve – Make Up Week (Readings TBA)

Tues November 29

Thurs December 1

Week Thirteen – Final Presentations

Tues December 6 - No Assigned Readings

Thurs December 8 – No Assigned Readings