History of Medicine 919: A History of Reproduction in America

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Office Hours: 2:30-5, Tuesday and by appointment

This course examines the history of reproduction over the course of United States history with special attention to reproduction in the twentieth century. We will be guided by several questions: How have women fought to gain control over their fertility? How has reproductive control been withheld from women? How have reproductive choices been influenced by race, class, ability, age, sex, and place? How has the relationship between sexuality and reproduction changed over time? How has the state been involved in determining reproductive choices? How has medicine figured into the history of reproduction? How does the history of reproduction inform the current discussion of reproductive choice?

Requirements:

Seminar Participation	30%
Book Reviews (2)	20%
Essay Review	30%
Think Pieces and Discussion Questions	20%

Seminar Participation:
Participation in the seminar is important to the teaching and learning process and to your grade. It is not that I want you to speak for the sake of speaking, but I want you to accept some responsibility for teaching others by sharing your thoughts, questions, and ideas and for the direction and energy of the seminar. Students should have read and engaged both the assigned materials and the discussion questions before class.

Book Reviews:
Students will write two book reviews of books read for this course. They should be about 5 pages long and should summarize the scope of the book, the author's approach, methodology, and findings, and provide your own analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the text. They are due within one week of the day the books were discussed by the class.

Essay Review:
Students will write an essay review of four or five books on some topic that fits within the larger theme of reproduction. This paper will let you identify and analyze historiographical themes and opportunities in the history of reproduction. This paper should be about 15 pages in length. The first draft will be due April 22. The final draft will be due May 9.

Discussion Questions:
Every week students will offer and explain one historiographical question and one historical

question inspired by the readings. They should help us all think abut the readings as we prepare for class. They may (but they needn't) connect each day's readings with other course materials. Students will post these questions to the class discussion list by 9 AM the morning of class. These questions taken together should not be longer than one single spaced page of prose. (Every student can have two skips.)

SCHEDULE

January 24: Products of Reproduction: Constructions of Motherhood

Jan Lewis, "Mother's Love: The Construction of an Emotion in Nineteenth Century America," in *Social History and Issues of Human Consciousness* (New York: New York University Press, 1989).

Lynn Y. Weiner, "Reconstructing Motherhood: The La Leche League in Postwar America," *The Journal of American History* (1994): 1357-1381

Rima Apple, "Constructing Mothers: Scientific Motherhood in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," *Social History of Medicine* 8(1995): 161-78.

Ruth Feldstein, "Antiracism and Maternal Failure in the 1940s and 1950s," in *"Bad" Mothers: The Politics of Blame in Twentieth–Century America* (New York: New York University Press, 1998), 145-168.

M. Rivka Polatnick, "Diversity in Women's Liberation Ideology: How a Black and a White Group of the 1960s Viewed Motherhood," *Signs* 21 (1996): 679-706.

January 31: Products of Reproduction: Reproducing Labor

Jennifer L. Morgan, *Laboring Women: Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004).

Stephanie Shaw, "Mothering Under Slavery in the Antebellum South," in *Mothering: Ideology, Experience, and Agency* (New York: Routledge, 1994).

February 7: Products of Reproduction: Public Policy

Molly Ladd-Taylor, *Mother-Work: Women, Child Welfare, and the State, 1890-1930* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1994).

February 14: Products of Reproduction: Problem Girls and Unwanted Progeny

Regina Kunzel, *Fallen Women, Problem Girls: Unmarried Mothers and the Professionalization of Social Work, 1890-1945* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993).

Rickie Solinger, "Race and 'Value': Black and White Illegitimate Babies, in the U.S.A, 1945-1965," *Gender and History* 4 (1992).

February 21: Reproducing Race: Eugenics

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).

Edward Larson, "'In the Finest, Most Womanly Way': Women in the Southern Eugenics Movement," *American Journal of Legal History* 39 (1995): 119-147.

February 28: Reproducing Race: Miscegenation

Lisa Lindquist Dorr, "Arm in Arm: Gender, Eugenics, and Virginia's Racial Integrity Acts of the 1920s," *Journal of Women's History* 11 (1999): 143-166.

Peggy Pascoe, "Miscegenation Law, Court Cases, and Ideologies of 'Race' in Twentieth-Century America," *Journal of American History* (1996): 44-69.

David A. Hollinger, "Amalgamation and Hypodescent: The Question of Ethnoracial Mixture in the History of the United States," *American Historical Review* (2003): 1363-1390.

Julie Novkov, "Racial Constructions: The Legal Regulation of Miscegenation in Alabama, 1890-1934," *Law and History Review* 20 (2002): 225-277.

March 7: Restricting and Controlling Reproduction: Reproductive Autonomy

Carole R. McCann, *Birth Control Politics in the United States, 1916-1945* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1994).

Andrea Tone, "Making Room for Rubbers: Gender, Technology, and Birth Control before the Pill," *History and Technology* 18 (2002): 51-76.

Beth Bailey, "Prescribing the Pill: Politics, Culture, and the Sexual Revolution in American's Heartland," *Journal of Social History* (1997): 827-856.

March 14: Restricting and Controlling Reproduction: Sterilization

Alison C. Carey, "Gender and Compulsory Sterilization Programs in America: 1907-1950," *Journal of Historical Sociology* 11 (1998): 74-105.

Elena R. Gutierrez," Policing 'Pregnant Pilgrims': Situating the Sterilization Abuse of Mexican Origin Women in Los Angeles County," in *Women, Health, and Nation: Canada and the United States since 1945*, Georgina Feldberg, Molly Ladd-Taylor, Alison Li, and Kathryn McPherson, eds. (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003), 379-403.

Johanna Schoen, "Between Choice and Coercion: Women and the Politics of Sterilization in North Carolina," *Journal of Women's History* 13 (2001): 132-156.

Barron H. Lerner, "Constructing Medical Indications: The Sterilization of Women with Heart Disease or Tuberculosis, 1905-1935," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 49 (1994): 362-379.

Joel T. Braslow, "In the Name of Therapeutics: The Practice of Sterilization in a California State Hospital," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 51 (1996): 29-51.

March 28: Restricting and Controlling Reproduction: Reproductive Rights

Jennifer Nelson, *Women of Color and the Reproductive Rights Movement* (New York: New York University Press, 2003).

Rickie Solinger, "Motherhood as a Class Privilege in America: A Public Policy Project," in *Beggars and Choosers: How the Politics of Choice Shapes Adoption, Abortion, and Welfare in the United States* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2001), 183-224.

Leslie Reagan, "Crossing the Border for Abortions: California Activists, Mexican Clinics, and the Creation of a Feminist Health Agency in the 1960s," *Feminist Studies* 26 (2000): 323-348.

April 4: **Restricting and Controlling Reproduction: Imperialism and Reproductive Policy**

Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).

April 11: **Failed Reproduction: Infertility**

Elaine Tyler May, *Barren in the Promised Land: Childless Americans and the Pursuit of Happiness* (New York: Basic Books, 1995).

Margarete J. Sandelowski, "Failures of Volition: Female Agency and Infertility in Historical Perspective," *Signs* 15 (1990): 475-499.

April 18: **Failed Reproduction: Adopting Alternatives**

Barbara Melosh, *Strangers and Kin: The American Way of Kin* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002).

Laura Briggs, "Mother, Child, Race, Nation: The Visual Iconography of Rescue and the Politics of Transnational and Transracial Adoption" *Gender and History* 15 (2003): 179-200.

Ellen Herman, "Families Made By Science: Arnold Gesell and the Technologies of Modern Child Adoption," *Isis* 92 (2001): 684-715.

April 25: **Reproducing Disability: Blaming the Mother**

Janet Golden, *Message in A Bottle: The Making of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005).

Cynthia Daniels, "Between Fathers and Fetuses: The Social Construction of Male Reproduction and the Politics of Fetal Harm," *Signs* 22 (1997): 579-616.

April 2: **Reproducing Disability: Technological Visions**

Rayna Rapp, *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus: The Social Impact of Amniocentesis in America* (New York: Routledge, 1999).

Molly Ladd-Taylor, "'A Kind of Genetic Social Work': Sheldon Reed and the Origins of Genetic Counseling," in *Women, Health, and Nation,* 67-83.