

Global Perspectives on Reproduction and Childbirth

ANTH 197

Instructor: Dr. Angela N. Castañeda, Ph.D.

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Semester: Fall 2014

Location: Honor Scholar Building rm. 112

Time: 10-11:30 am Tuesday and Thursdays

Office: Asbury Hall 219

Office Hours: during lunch Tuesday and Thursdays, also by appointment

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*The mother's womb is replaced by the womb of culture, which,
comfortably or uncomfortably, cradles us all.*

Robbie Davis-Floyd

Course Description

In this seminar, we focus on how reproduction is shaped by cultural meanings while simultaneously entangled in religious, economic and political discussions. Course material includes an analysis of ethnographic fieldwork on topics that include the increasing medicalization of pregnancy and childbirth, the role of technology in assisting reproductive bodies, and performance and activism in reproduction. Through the use of an anthropological perspective, we will learn more about “intimate” life processes in both local and cross-cultural contexts. Specific case studies include examples from North America, Africa and Latin America. In addition, the content of this course corresponds to an off-campus Extended Studies course to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Students in this seminar will have the opportunity to enroll in this January course.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Analyze reproductive health situations in different cultural and national contexts from an anthropological perspective;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the interactive nature of gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, class and sexuality as they pertain to beliefs, behaviors, and outcomes of reproductive health;
3. Be able to link global reproductive health issues with local concerns;
4. Demonstrate enhanced critical thinking, reading, writing, and oral presentation skills.

Required Texts:

Berry, Nicole S. *Unsafe Motherhood: Mayan Maternal Mortality and Subjectivity in Post-War Guatemala*, Berghahn Books, 2012.

Gaskin, Ina May. *Birth Matters: A Midwife's Manifesta*, Seven Stories Press, 2011.

Gutmann, Matthew C., *The Meanings of Macho: Being a Man in Mexico City*, University of California Press, 2006.

Holloway, Kris, *Monique and the Mango Rains: Two Years With a Midwife in Mali*, Waveland Press, 2006.

Twine, France, *Outsourcing the Womb: Race, Class and Gestational Surrogacy in a Global Market*, Routledge, 2011.

Note: There are also articles assigned as required reading. These articles are noted in your syllabus with an asterisk (*). Be sure to bring either a copy of the article and/or your notes to class.

Course Requirements: Handouts with more information will be provided for assignments.

Thoughtful Participation:

Remember, this is a seminar-style course and a portion of your grade is based on your participation. This includes active listening, responding to your classmates in respectful and engaging ways; also making comments that connect with course readings and demonstrate that you have read and thought about the material for the day's discussion. **Each student will be expected to lead the discussion with a partner for one class, either as advocate or critic of the assigned readings (10%).** While there are assigned discussion leaders, you should be prepared to fulfill this role on any given day—this requires that you come to class having finished the reading and thought about possible questions and comments to share with the class. You should reflect on the key questions you see in the readings, issues you think are worthy of further discussion, and analytic problems you think are important in the readings.

Freewriting and Discussion Starters: Students must come to class prepared to share their thoughts on the assigned texts in the form of freewriting exercises and discussion starter questions (prepare 1 question and 1 statement to start class discussion) (10%).

Written Assignments: There are four papers for this class. The first three (summary, critique, and synthesis) require 4 pages of written material, while the last paper (critical analysis) requires 6 pages of written work. The process for completing these papers includes peer editing, drafting and individual writing conferences.

Summary Paper (15%)

Critique Paper (15%)

Synthesis Paper (15%)

Critical Analysis Paper (20%)

Exam: There will be one comprehensive exam given towards the end of the semester (15%).

Grading

A note on graded materials—you must wait at least 24 hours (but no more than 1 week) before coming to see me about a grade you received on any class material. I am available to look over a graded assignment only after you have taken sufficient time to read through both your original work and my comments. Keep in mind that reviewing graded material also means a possible increase OR decrease in the original grade, so be sure to look over your work carefully before bringing it to my attention for a second time.

Your final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- Participation.....10%
- Discussion Leader.....10%
- Summary, Critique, Synthesis Papers.....45% (15% each)
- Critical Analysis Final Paper.....20%
- Exam.....15%

TOTAL 100%

Grading Scale

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A 94%+ | A- 90-93% | |
| B+ 87-89% | B 84-86% | B- 80-83% |
| C+ 77-79% | C 74-76% | C- 70-73% |
| D+ 67-69% | D 64-66% | D- 60-63% |
| F 59%- | | |

The following information will help you better understand the criteria for graded material:

A= exceptionally thought-provoking, original, creative in both content and manner of presentation, and a skillful use of concepts and/or materials which are fully supported.

B= presents a solid understanding of the subject matter and an ability to handle the issues and materials encountered in the subject with only minor errors.

C= demonstrates an adequate understanding of the subject matter with central ideas present, but too general, repetitious and not clearly supported or integrated with evidence and details.

D= a minimally acceptable performance with a confusing central idea and lacking details. Parts of the assignment are missing and/or incomplete.

F= shows lack of effort and minimal comprehension of material with major mechanical errors, no thesis, and misuse of key concepts.

Attendance

Attendance and active class participation is required from every student. Late arrivals will not be tolerated. Irregular attendance and repeated late arrivals will result in the lowering of the final

course grade. If you are ill, please do not come to class, instead send me an email and wait to return to class until you are without a fever for 24 hours without medication.

Class Preparation

Your class preparation is essential to your required active participation in the course. You must complete assigned readings **before** the class period for which they are assigned. You must come to class with prepared questions and comments regarding the assigned readings. This will help ensure your active participation in class. **Things to think about regarding the readings: What was the author's main point/thesis? How does this relate to the class topic? What connection can you make between the reading and current events or your own life?**

Assignment Policy

All assignments must be turned in as specified by the instructor, either hard copy stapled and numbered or electronically submitted. In order to maintain fairness among all students, late assignments will not be accepted without a medical excuse or otherwise documented emergency. The instructor retains the right to lower the grade on any late assignment accepted. If you must miss class on the day an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to turn the assignment in early.

Academic Dishonesty

All work must be **your own**. You must give credit to **any** information and/or ideas that you use that are not your own by citing it in your work. If you are unfamiliar with proper citation procedures, you should contact your instructor and/or consult the Writing Center.

Questions???

I always encourage all of my students to take advantage of my office hours, either for questions, concerns, or just “drop-in” discussions, and I feel communication is especially important during your first year seminar. Please feel free to stop by Asbury Hall 219, and if the “official” hours are not convenient or you would like to ensure yourself a specific block of time, we can easily set up an appointment that meets your needs and schedule, you only have to ask. You can reach me: office phone x4372 or email acastaneda@depauw.edu.

“DePauw University is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university administered activities with reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and Amendments (ADAAA). Any student who feels she or he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability or learning challenge is strongly encouraged to contact Pamela Roberts, Director of Student Disability Services and ADA Compliance for further information on how to receive accommodations and support. Contact information for Student Disability Services is: 408 S. Locust Street, Suite 200, in The Memorial Student Union Building (765-658-6267). It is the responsibility of the student to share the letter of accommodation with faculty and staff members. Accommodations will not be implemented until the faculty or staff member has received the official letter. Accommodations are not retroactive. It is the responsibility of the student to discuss implementation of

accommodations with each faculty and staff member receiving the letter."

Course Outline

WEEK 1 Course Introduction: How have anthropologists approached reproduction?

August 28th

READ: Rayna Rapp and Faye Ginsburg's "The Politics of Reproduction"*

WEEK 2 Fertility, Childbirth and Parenting

September 2nd

READ: Holloway pgs. 1-60

DUE: Point paragraph

September 4th

READ: Holloway pgs. 61-102

WEEK 3

September 9th

READ: Holloway pgs. 103-154

DISCUSSION LEADERS

September 11th

READ: Holloway pgs. 155-209

WEEK 4 Men, Masculinity and Reproduction

September 16th

READ: Moore "Killer Sperm"* and Oaks "Manhood and Meaning in the Marketing of the Male Pill"*

DUE: Summary Paper (4 pages)

September 18th

READ: Han "Making Room for Daddy"* and Miller "Husband-assisted Birth among Rarámuri of Northern Mexico"*

DISCUSSION LEADERS

WEEK 5 Meet with Prof. Oware's class

September 23rd

READ: Gutmann preface, introduction and chapters 1 and 2

September 25th

READ: Gutmann chapters 3-5

WEEK 6 Meet with Prof. Oware's class

September 30th

READ: Gutmann chapters 6-8

October 2nd

READ: Gutmann chapters 9-10

WEEK 7 Reproduction and Technology

October 7th

DUE: Critique Paper (4 pages)

October 9th

READ: Twine chapters 1-2

Film: *Made in India*

WEEK 8

October 14th

READ: Twine chapters 3-4

DISCUSSION LEADERS

October 16th

READ: Twine chapters 5-7

Film: *Eggsploitation*

WEEK 9 FALL BREAK

WEEK 10 Unsafe Motherhood, Maternal Mortality

October 28th

READ: Berry introduction and chapters 1-2

Film: *Laboring Under an Illusion: Mass Media Childbirth vs. the Real Thing*

October 30th

READ: Berry chapters 3-4

DISCUSSION LEADERS

WEEK 11

November 4th

READ: Berry chapters 5-6 and conclusion

November 6th

DUE: Synthesis Paper (4 pages)

WEEK 12 Birth Matters...

November 11th

READ: Gaskin chapters 1-3

Film: *Birth Story: Ina May Gaskin & the Farm Midwives*

November 13th

READ: Gaskin chapters 4-6

DISCUSSION LEADERS

WEEK 13

November 18th

READ: Gaskin chapters 7-9

Film: *Freedom for birth the mother's revolution*

November 20th

READ: Meltzer Norman and Katz Rothman "The New Arrival: Labor Doulas and the Fragmentation of Midwifery and Caregiving"* and Castañeda and Searcy "'Mothers, Doulas, Flexible Labour and Embodied Care in the United States'"*

Film: *A doula's story: On the front lines of teen pregnancy*

DISCUSSION LEADERS

WEEK 14

November 25th

EXAM

November 27th

NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 15

December 2nd

TBA

Film: *The Business of Being Born*

December 4th

NO CLASS—AAA conference Washington D.C.

WEEK 16

December 9th

Individual writing conferences

December 11th

DUE: Critical Analysis Paper (6 pages)

NOTE: The instructor retains the right to change the syllabus for this class as necessary.