

ANTH 238-01 Anthropology of Reproduction (3 s.h.)

Fall 2011

Fitzelle 301

(CRN 599) T Th 12-1:15pm

Prerequisite: ANTH 100

General Education Attribute: S2

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Office hours: T 1:30-3:30pm, W 2-2:45pm, Th 1:30-3:30pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines women's and men's experiences of reproduction in anthropological perspective, including childbearing, childbirth, menarche, and menopause across cultures and societies. Emphasizes reproduction as a cultural and social experience.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The anthropology of reproduction has emerged as a vibrant and vital field of study in cultural and medical anthropology. In recent years, some of the most important contributions to the development of social theory in anthropology have emerged from considerations of reproduction. New technologies raise questions about what is nature and what is culture, and new configurations of kinship and relatedness underscore the critical significance of reproduction in the organization of persons as individuals and groups.

Central to this field of study has been the premise that reproduction must be considered not only in terms of biology, but also culture and society. Indeed, anthropologists of reproduction emphasize the ways in which cultural and social experiences can shape biological experiences of reproduction. The anthropology of reproduction builds upon the insights of cultural and medical anthropology. It also bridges concerns in cultural and biological anthropology.

In this course, students will explore topics in the anthropology of reproduction. They will consider cross-cultural perspectives on childbearing, childbirth, and childlessness, and the globalization of new reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization. Students also will discuss in particular why reproduction generally has been treated as a women's concern, and how the role of men and fathers in reproduction might be reconsidered.

REQUIREMENTS

Your final grades for the course will be based on total cumulative points, broken down approximately as follows:

Class presentation	25 points
Attendance and participation	25 points
1st response paper	20 points
2nd response paper	20 points
3rd response paper	20 points
"Ripped from the headlines"	10 points
Preliminary project proposal	10 points
Preliminary bibliography	10 points
Annotated bibliography	20 points

Revised proposal and outline	10 points
Research poster (final)	30 points

Your final grade will be based on meeting all of the above requirements. Failure to meet any one of the requirements can result in a failing grade. Also, please note in advance that there are no extra credit or make-up assignments.

CLASS PRESENTATION

Each student will be responsible for preparing a class presentation on one of the assigned readings. (A sign-up sheet will be circulated during the first full week of classes.) You will speak for about 10 minutes. You will be evaluated according to the following criteria: In your presentation, explain the central argument, highlight other key points of the article, describe the evidence and examples that the author employs, and offer two or three questions to generate class discussion.

ATTENDANCE / DISCUSSION

Attendance in class is required. Participation in class discussion will be considered for your final grade. Bringing readings to class will be counted as part of attendance and participation. For each class, you will be assigned either + or – for your participation in class discussion. Absence and / or lack of participation on a regular basis will affect your grade negatively.

RESPONSE PAPERS

You will be required to write three response papers. These writing assignments are intended to enable both the instructor and the student to assess the student’s grasp of the material in this class. They also are intended to provide opportunities for the student to reinforce his or her understanding of it. The papers also should be treated as “cumulative” in the sense that the papers will build upon each other – i.e., material in the 1st paper should be considered further in the 2nd paper, and the final paper will draw from material in the previous three papers. Instructions for the essay exams will be discussed in detail in advance of the due dates.

RESEARCH POSTER

For your final, you will undertake a research project on a topic in reproduction. You will give a poster presentation on your research project during the final class meeting on **Tuesday, December 13 at 2pm**. In preparation for the poster presentation, you will submit the following, which will be graded. Please refer to the course schedule (below) for dates:

- “Ripped from the headlines” assignment: Two examples of reproduction in the news (10 points)
- A preliminary project proposal (10 points)
- A preliminary bibliography listing a minimum of five (5) works *in anthropology* that include journal articles and at least one (1) book (10 points)
- An annotated bibliography listing a minimum of six (6) works in anthropology (20 points)
- A revised proposal and an outline of your poster presentation (10 points)
- The research poster (30 points)

Instructions for the poster presentation itself will be discussed in detail in advance.

COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

As noted above, regular attendance and participation in class is required. Although there are legitimate reasons for being absent from class (e.g., sickness), missing three or more classes, for whatever reasons, will lower one's course grade, and may result in failure.

It is the student's responsibility to inform the professor about the absence prior to or immediately after its occurrence. If you anticipate missing class because you are a student-athlete, you must identify yourself to the professor early in the course.

Remember also that students are responsible for all of the material covered in class. Make-ups for full credit will be permitted only for officially documented ("excused") absences, such as conferences or competitions. Make-ups for partial credit will be permitted for other absences.

ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING

This is a reading and discussion-intensive class. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss readings. Although it is not necessary for you to bring all of your books to every meeting of this class, you are required to bring your reading assignment.

Creating an environment for learning conducive to learning involves community effort. Individually, we will conduct ourselves in a manner that is respectful, considerate, and courteous of each other. Students are expected to arrive on time for class, and the professor is expected to end on time.

Students are expected to refrain from conversation not directly relevant to the material at hand and from the use of cellular phones, iPods, etc., during classes. If you wish to use a laptop during class, you must receive the instructor's permission.

Please note the following passage from the Student Code of Conduct:

Instructors have a responsibility to maintain an effective learning situation in their classrooms and to deal promptly with any disruptions that interfere with the learning situation. The instructor is in charge of his/her classroom. If he/she feels that a student is interfering with the right of other students to profit from attendance in that classroom or if he/she feels that he/she is being unreasonably hindered in the presentation of subject matter, the instructor has every right to eject the offending student from the class and/or notify the Student Development Office of the student's behavior.

The Student Code of Conduct can be accessed at
<http://www.oneonta.edu/development/studevel.asp>.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In order to meet the requirements of this class, it is expected that all of your written work, including take-home writing assignments and in-class essay exams, will represent your own honest, individual, and original efforts to engage with the material in this class. Please be careful with your written work. Dishonesty of any kind (e.g., "copying" or "borrowing") will not be tolerated, and may result in a failing grade for the assignment and / or the class.

You will be expected to cite your sources properly and include a list of references. You may prepare your citations in any standard style used in scholarly writing (e.g., MLA, APA), but please be sure to use it consistently and correctly. For example, the style guideline for American Anthropologist is available at www.aaanet.org.

ANGEL

All students will be expected to use the Angel site for this class. Announcements, instructions for written assignments, presentation notes, and readings will be available on Angel. You also will submit written assignments on Angel unless noted otherwise.

E-MAIL

When you are e-mailing Dr. Han, please use only the following information in the subject line:

Your Last Name ANTH 238

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Please note that special considerations such as extensions on deadlines will be permitted only with official documentation. If special circumstances arise that prevent the regular and timely completion of assignments, it is the student's responsibility to communicate them with the instructor. Please do so as soon as possible.

All material on this syllabus is subject to change.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Emily Martin, *The Woman in the Body* (Martin)

Marcia C. Inhorn, Tine Tjørnhøj-Thomsen, Helene Goldberg and Maruska la Cour Mosegaard (editors), *Reconceiving the Second Sex: Men, Masculinity, and Reproduction* (RSS)

In addition, a number of the reading assignments will be available as PDFs on the Angel site for this class. You will be required to print hard copies of the PDFs and bring them to class in order to discuss them. *Points will be subtracted from your Attendance and Participation each time you fail to bring the readings.*

Note that PDFs will be posted 1 week prior to the date that the reading assignment will be discussed in class, and remain posted until 1 week after the date. At that point, the PDF will be removed from Angel. It is the student's responsibility to download and print a hard copy of the reading to bring to class. Please check the reading schedule.

Course schedule

Th 8/25	Introduction
T 8/30	Childbirth in anthropological perspective: Evolutionary, biosocial, and cultural Wenda Trevathan, "The Evolution of Bipedalism and Assisted Birth" (Angel) Brigitte Jordan, Birth in Four Cultures – Chapter 1 (Angel)
Th 9/1	Martin, Chapters 1 and 2
T 9/6	Childbirth in the United States Martin, Chapters 4 and 5
Th 9/8	Video: "Born in the USA"
T 9/13	Martin, Chapters 8 and 9
Th 9/15	Ripped from the Headlines due at the start of class In-class discussion of reproduction in the news
T 9/20	Attending childbirth: Cross-cultural perspectives Roger Jeffery and Patricia Jeffery, "Traditional Birth Attendants in Rural North India: The Social Organization of Childbearing" (Angel) Gertrude Fraser, "Modern Bodies, Modern Minds: Midwifery and Reproductive Change

	in an African-American Community” (Angel)
Th 9/22	Janneli Miller, “Husband-Assisted Birth among the Raramuri of Northern Mexico” (RSS Chapter 13)
T 9/27	Video: “Woman to Woman” 1st response paper (Childbirth in anthropological perspective) due by 5pm
BREAK	
T 10/4	Gender and reproduction Martin, Chapters 3 and 6
Th 10/6	Martin, Chapter 7
T 10/11	Meredith Small, “A Woman’s Curse” (Angel)
Th 10/13	Lynnette Leidy Sievert, “Should Women Menstruate?” (Angel)
T 10/18	Linda Layne, “The Home Pregnancy Test: A Feminist Technology?” (Angel)
Th 10/20	Video: “The Pill” Preliminary bibliography due by 5pm
T 10/25	Lisa Jean Moore, “Killer Sperm: Masculinity and the Essence of Male Hierarchies” (RSS Chapter 2) Laury Oaks, “Manhood and Meaning in the Marketing of the ‘Male Pill’” (RSS Chapter 5)
Th 10/27	Helene Goldberg, “The Sex in the Sperm: Male Infertility and Its Challenges to Masculinity in an Israeli-Jewish Context” (RSS Chapter 8)
T 11/1	Tine Tjonhoj-Thomsen, “ ‘It’s a bit unmanly in a way’: Men and Infertility in Denmark” (RSS Chapter 9) Marcia Inhorn, “Male Genital Cutting: Masculinity, Reproduction, and Male Infertility Surgeries in Egypt and Lebanon” (RSS Chapter 10)
Th 11/3	No class 2nd response paper (Gender and reproduction) due by 5pm
T 11/8	Reproductive politics and practices Nguyen Thi Thuy Hanh, “Reproductive Paradoxes in Vietnam: Masculinity, Contraception, and Abortion in Vietnam” (RSS Chapter 6) Aura Yen, “Reproductive Politics in Southwest China: Deconstructing a Minority Male-Dominated Perspective on Reproduction” (RSS Chapter 7)
Th 11/10	Matthew Dudgeon and Marcia Inhorn, “Men’s Influences on Women’s Reproductive Health: Medical Anthropological Perspectives” (RSS Chapter 4)
T 11/15	Tsipiv Ivry, “ ‘We are pregnant’: Israeli Men and the Paradoxes of Sharing” (RSS Chapter 11)
Th 11/17	Individual conferences by appointment Annotated bibliography due by 5pm
BREAK	
T 11/29	Lynn Morgan, “When Does Life Begin?: A Cross-Cultural Perspective” (Angel) Barbara Rylko-Bauer, “Abortion from a Cross-Cultural Perspective: An Introduction: (Angel)
Th 12/1	Sallie Han, “Making Room for Daddy: Men’s ‘Belly Talk’ in the Contemporary United States” (RSS Chapter 12)
T 12/6	Individual conferences by appointment 3rd response paper (Reproductive politics and practices) due by 5pm
Th 12/8	Individual conferences by appointment Revised proposal and / or outline due by 5pm
T 12/13	2 - 4:30pm Research poster presentations