Global Reproductive Health  
INTL 465/565  
Syllabus (Subject to Revision)  
University of Oregon, Spring 2015

Professor: Kristin Elizabeth Yarris; keyarris@uoregon.edu  
Class Meeting Time & Location: Monday & Wednesday 2:00-3:50pm. 214 MCK.  
Office Hours: Mon. 10:00am-11:00am, Wed. 4:00-5:00pm, PLC 313.

Course Overview:  
This course provides an overview of contemporary issues and challenges in what can be broadly construed as the field of global reproductive health. Drawing largely on anthropological research, the course uses ethnography as a method that allows for in-depth study of local problems, cultures and debates around reproductive health, reproductive politics, and reproductive inequalities. The first two weeks of the course will focus on conceptual readings, which will help us situate our discussions of reproduction, reproductive inequalities, politics and health within historical, comparative, and theoretical perspectives. Important to this conceptual framing is establishing a groundwork for understanding how population planning, fertility interventions, and maternal health programs have been used as part of (neo)colonial discourse and international development practice to constrain specific bodies, restrict specific practices and control specific populations. Throughout the course, we will attend to how histories of power and dynamics of control shape reproductive inequalities in contemporary cross-cultural contexts. Our readings will be drawn largely from a recent edited volume on reproduction and globalization; we will supplement this text with additional articles and book chapters from the peer-reviewed academic literature, as well as with documentary films and radio broadcasts. Our task in this course is to draw upon the wide-ranging ethnographic examples we study and uncover the connective threads across global and local sites and interventions. Throughout, we will remain critical of the role of population policies and development programs but we will also remain attuned to the health needs and lived reproductive experiences of women and men.

Class Format: This is a reading-focused course; students are expected to complete all assigned readings and come to class each session ready to engage in-depth discussion of the readings. This class will be run as an upper-division undergraduate / graduate seminar. This means that, while some in-class time will be allocated towards instructor lectures, we will work collaboratively towards developing an active, participatory intellectual space and students will be responsible for shaping our understanding of the assigned reading materials. Class time will be used for a variety of pedagogical activities besides lectures; including student presentations on readings, small group discussions, and viewing and discussing documentary films and radio broadcasts.

Required Text (Available in UO Bookstore):  

Other Required Readings: The remainder of the required readings will be available on the course Blackboard page or through the UO Libraries.
Grading:
Class Participation: 10%
Reading Presentation: 10%
Annotated Bibliography: 20%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 35%

Grading Explanation:

Class participation: Students are expected not only to attend all class sessions but to actively engage in classroom discussions and other activities. Students are also encouraged to post links to relevant readings, news stories, video clips on the course webpage. **Note:** the instructor does not want to receive emails from students justifying their absence from class. When absent, it is the student’s responsibility to catch up with material by contacting other students or their GTF.

Reading presentation: On the first day of class, students will sign up for one of the assigned readings, which they will present on the day the reading is assigned. These presentations may be formal or informal, didactic or participatory. The presentations are expected to raise critical issues and questions from the readings for class discussion.

Annotated bibliography: Students will prepare annotations on their reading, which will be submitted each Thursday in hard copy in class. For undergraduates, annotations will be ½ -1 pgs and for graduates, 1-2 pages. Annotations will: summarize the main argument(s) in the reading, raise any pertinent questions, and link reading to other ideas from the course (or, for graduates, to ideas about their own research projects).

Take Home Midterm Exam: Undergraduates will answer **one of two** short answer essay questions and will write 4-6 double-spaced pages in response; graduate students will answer both questions, writing 4-6 pages for each of two answers. Midterm exams will be distributed in class on Wed., April 27th and will be due in class on Mon., May 4th. No late exams will be accepted.

Final Take-Home Exam: Undergraduates will answer **two of four** questions; 4-6 double-spaced pages per answer. Graduate students will write on all four questions submitting 4-6 pages per answer. **Optionally,** graduate students may write on **two of the four questions and submit an additional 8-12 page paper** linking themes from the course to their own research projects and interests in lieu of answering two questions -- students electing this option for their final exams must discuss their paper topics with the professor prior to week eight of the term. Final exams will be distributed on the last day of class (Wed. June 3rd) and are due by 4:45pm on Monday, June 9th. No late exams will be accepted; no extensions or incompletes will be granted; no exceptions.
Weekly Topics and Readings:

**Week One (March 30 & April 1)**
*Introduction to the Course; Global Reproductive Politics & Reproductive Inequalities*


TBD: Cairo conference document: 1994 conference on population and development

**Week Two (April 6 & 8)**
*Conceptualizing Reproduction and Global Reproductive Health: Comparative, Critical, Feminist & Ethnographic Perspectives*

(Monday)


Film: *Population Control*. at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1p-XxcwX0U&feature=related

(Wednesday)

**Note:** Thursday, April 9th there will be a public lecture by Johanna Crane at UO. Details TBD.

**Week Three (April 13 & 15)**
*Sterilization and “Family Planning”; Managing Maternity and Medicalizing Birth*

(Monday)


(Wednesday)

Film: La Operación (1982; Robert Cohen & Ana Maria Garcia; 40 mins.)

**Week Four (April 20 & 22)**

*Men and Reproduction; Masculinities and Paternities in Global Perspective*

(Monday)


(Wednesday)

Fonseca, Claudia. Law, Technology, and Gender Relations: Following the Path of DNA Paternity Tests in Brazil. pp.138-153. Chp. 9 In Browner & Sargent.

**Week Five (April 27 & 29)**

*Biomedicine, Contraception, Biotechnologies and Reproductive Inequalities*

(Monday)


Film: *Burden of knowledge: moral dilemmas in prenatal testing*. Fanlight productions (54 mins)

(Wednesday)


→ Midterm Distributed; Midterm Due Monday, May 4 in class.
**Week Six (May 4 & 6)**
*Debates in Culture and Reproduction, I: HPV Vaccine; Debates, II: Abortion, Bodies and States.*
(Monday)
Wailoo, Livingston, Epstein, Aronowitz (Eds.) 2010. Three Shots at Prevention: The HPV Vaccine and the Politics of Medicine’s Simple Solutions. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (Selected Chapters, TBD.)

(Wednesday)

Video: “Holding Our Ground” (2004, Bullfrog Films, 23 mins.)
Radio Podcast: *Fresh Air* Interview 1/21/13: On Texas’ Anti-Abortion Laws

**Week Seven (May 11 & 13)**
*Debates in Culture & Reproduction, III: Population Control and the State: Challenges from China; Debates, IV: The Politics and Cultures of Transnational Adoption*
(Monday)


(Wednesday)

**Guest Speaker:** Jessaca Leinaweaver (Brown U.)

**Week Eight (May 18 & 20)**
*Debates in Culture & Reproduction V: Population Planning, Family Logics & Islam; and VI: Fertility Declines & “Replacement Anxiety”*
(Monday)


**Week Nine (May 27)**

**Debates, VII: Reproductive Technologies & Inequalities in India**

No Class Monday: Memorial Day


Film: *Made In India: A Film about Surrogacy* (Dir. Rebecca Haimowitz and Vaishali Sinha; 97 min.)

**Week Ten (June 1 & 3)**

**Critically Situating Reproduction, Reproductive Inequalities, and Health within Contemporary Globalization**

Padilla, Mark B. From Sex Workers to Tourism Workers: A Structural Approach to Male Sexual Labor in Dominican Tourism Areas. pp.159-174. Chp. 10 In Browner & Sargent.


Final Exam Distributed in Class on Wednesday, June 3.
Final Exam Due by Tuesday, June 9th at 4:45pm in International Studies Office, 175 PLC.