Global Reproductive Health
INTL 465/565
Syllabus (Draft, Subject to Revision)
University of Oregon, Spring 2017

Professor: Kristin Elizabeth Yarris; keyarris@uoregon.edu
Class Meeting Time & Location: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00-11:50am; 30 Pacific
Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-3:30; 313 PLC

Course Overview:
This course provides an overview of contemporary issues and challenges in the field of global reproductive health, broadly construed. Drawing largely on anthropological and other social science research, the course delves into the tensions between global and local dynamics, politics and cultures, technologies and inequalities shaping reproductive health realities. We will situate contemporary reproductive health debates into a historical and global perspective; for instance, by examine relevant international laws and conventions and how these influence local reproductive health access, opportunities, and outcomes. Important to this critical framing of global reproductive health is understanding how population planning, contraceptive interventions, and maternal health programs have historically been shaped by (neo)colonial relations of power and control so as to constrain specific bodies, restrict specific cultural practices and manage specific populations while reflecting specific political agendas. To examine these contestations, and to delve deeper into particular global/local tensions and cultural locales, we will focus our study on several “debates in culture and reproduction”. Our readings will be drawn largely from medical anthropology and the medical humanities, including several articles from a special issue of Anthropology and Medicine and a recent edited volume about the HPV vaccine from Johns Hopkins University Press; these readings will be supplemented by non-peer reviewed (popular) writings, documentary films, and podcast episodes. Throughout the course, we will remain both critical of the role of population policies and development programs but also attuned to the health needs and reproductive experiences of women and men around the world.

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 professor 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 podcasts.

Required Readings:
Available in the UO Duck Bookstore.

The remainder of the required readings will be available on the course Canvas page or through the UO Libraries.
Grading – Undergraduates (INTL 465)
Class Participation: 20%
Class Project 14%
Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 36%

Grading – Graduates (INTL 565)
Class Participation 10%
Reading Presentation 10%
Class Project 14%
Midterm Exam 30%
Final Exam 36%

Grading Explanation

Class participation: Students are expected not only to attend all class sessions but also to actively engage in classroom discussions and related activities, which may include in-situ or “pop-up” writing or small group activities. Students should prepare 2-3 questions or points for discussion based on the readings to class every day and be ready to share these to use as the basis for in-class discussion. In addition, students are encouraged to post links to relevant readings, news stories, video clips, etc. on the course Canvas page. Participation will be worth up to 2 points per week for a total of 20 pts. for the term (UGs) and 1 point per week for 10 pts total (Grads).

Please note: The professor does not want to receive emails from students justifying or explaining class absence(s). When absent, it is a student’s responsibility to catch up with material by contacting other students and/or seeing the professor in office hours.

Reading presentation: Graduate students will select one assigned reading to present to the class. Presentations should last approx. 15-20 minutes and include: an overview of the author’s arguments, data and findings, theoretical contributions of the piece, relevance or relatedness to our course, and points or questions for class discussion. Presentations may be formal or informal, visual or oral, didactic or participatory. The presentation is worth up to 10 points.

Class Project: The class will work collectively during week seven (and earlier, throughout weeks 1-6, on their own time) to research the U.S. policy on international development funding for reproductive health known as the “global gag rule”, seeking out evidence for the impacts of the gag rule, local responses, and broader implications for global reproductive health. The objective is to work together as a class, or as smaller subgroups, in order to collect relevant peer-reviewed (academic) literature, stories from “Grey” literature (international NGOs, policy papers, academic blog posts, other non-peer reviewed sources), and any other information that will help us understand the implications of this policy for women’s and men’s reproductive lives around the world. The class project is worth 14 points for all students.

Take Home Midterm Exam: Undergraduates will answer two of three short answer essay questions and will write 2-3 single-spaced pages in response; graduate students will answer three of three questions, 2-3 pages for each answer. The professor will prepare students for the
midterm and final exam by sharing sample essay prompts and making sure students comprehend the readings in order to be able to answer the short answer essay questions. Midterm exams will be distributed in class at the end of week four and will be due in hard copy in class on Tuesday, May 2nd. No late exams accepted. The midterm exam is worth 30 possible points.

Take-Home Final Exam: Undergraduates will answer three of four questions; 2-3 single-spaced pages per answer. Graduate students will write on all four questions, submitting 2-3 pages per answer. The final exam will be weighted towards our reading of the book on HPV by Wailoo et al. As an option to writing on all the short answer essay questions, graduate students (or undergraduates working on a thesis) may write a paper related to their own research projects and interests for all or part of their final exam credit. Note: students electing this option must discuss their final paper topics with the professor prior to week eight of the term. Final exams will be distributed on Tuesday, June 6th and will be due in hard copy and on Canvas by 4:45 pm on Friday, June 9th. No late exams will be accepted; no extensions or incompletes will be granted; no exceptions. Early exams welcome. The final exam is worth 36 possible points.

**Weekly Topics and Readings**

**Week One (April 4 & 6)**
*Introduction to the Course; Global Reproductive Politics & Reproductive Inequalities*

Cairo conference document: 1994 conference on population and development

**Week Two (April 11 & 13)**
*Conceptualizing Reproduction and Global Reproductive Health: Comparative, Critical, Feminist & Anthropological Perspectives*
(Tuesday)

Film: *Population Control*. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1p-Xxcwx0U&feature=related

(Thursday)

**Week Three (April 18 & 20)**

*Managing Maternity and Fertility; Sterilization and “Family Planning”*

(Tuesday)


(Thursday)


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

**Week Four (April 25 & 27)**

*Global Perspectives on Men, Masculinities, and Reproductive Health*

(Tuesday)


(Thursday)


→ Midterm Distributed

Midterm Due Tuesday, May 2nd in class.

**Week Five (May 2 & 4)**

*Biomedicine, Biotechnologies and Reproductive Inequalities; Debates in Culture and Reproduction I: C-Sections in Brazil*

(Tuesday)

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

(Thursday)


Podcast: NPR Weekend Edition 05/12/13. C-sections among Brazilian women. (5 minutes)

**Week Six (May 9 & 11)**

*Debates in Culture and Reproduction, II: HPV Vaccine & The Gendered Politics of Prevention*


**Week Seven (May 16 & 18)**


Class project week: we will use class time to research and discuss findings on this topic. Readings to be generated collectively, announced, and shared.

(Thursday)


*Students are encouraged to attend public lecture by Professor Janis Jenkins, UCSD Anthropology & Global Health. Thursday 5/18/17, 4:00-5:00pm, Knight Browsing Room.*

**For up to 5 points of extra credit toward their final course grade, students may read the selected chapter by Dr. Jenkins (above), attend her lecture, and write a 1-2 page reflection. Students taking this option must submit their written reflection by Tuesday, May 23.

**Week Eight (May 23 & 25)**

*HPV Vaccine & The Gendered Politics of Prevention (Continued)*

Tuesday: Class presentation on global gag rule.

(Thursday):


**Week Nine (May 30 & June 1)**

*Debates in Culture & Reproduction, IV: Fostering Fertility & Managing “Replacement Anxiety” in Europe*

(Tuesday)
Finish HPV book discussion.

(Thursday)


**Week Ten (June 6)**
*Debates in Culture and Reproduction, V: Reproductive Technologies & Inequalities in India*
(Tuesday)

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

Final Exam Distributed in Class on Tuesday, June 6.

**Final Exam Due by Friday, June 9th by 4:45pm.**
Submit hard copy in International Studies Office, 175 PLC and submit online via Canvas.