

SPRING 2017
SOCIOLOGY 440
SOCIOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION

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GE Area: None

Course Catalog Description

An exploration of sociological perspectives on human reproduction. Topics may include gendered constructions of reproduction, the social implications of reproductive technologies, historical and contemporary perspectives on normal pregnancy, childbirth and infant feeding, the cultural context for breastfeeding, and the politics of reproductive justice.

Additional Notes on the Course

The course will include both lecture and student-led discussion. If you enroll in this course, be prepared to actively engage in required discussion of topics such as egg and sperm donation, surrogacy, childbirth practices, teen pregnancy, breastfeeding, and the work performed by those who help with reproductive matters (physicians, midwives, lactation consultants, abortion providers, etc.). You may hear invited guest lectures by midwives and other clinicians. There are required films that include footage of medical procedures and also reproductive events such as childbirth.

Course Requirements:

There will be two exams and multiple writing assignments, including responses to required readings, films and activities. This course requires a significant amount of reading that must be completed before each class. All students are required to engage in classroom discussion of required readings.

Readings:

TBA. Any required books will be ordered through the SSU Bookstore and North Light Books (located across from SSU). Moodle readings (articles and short papers) will also be required.