

**Winter/Spring 2008
Sociology of Abortion**

January 16 - April 30, 2008 (no class March 12th)
Wednesdays, 10:30AM-1:30PM Pacific Time (1:30PM-4:30PM Eastern Time)

Instructors: Tracy A Weitz, PhD, MPA
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Course Description

Abortion is the most socially contested issue of our time. Using a sociological lens, we can begin to understand this issue in a more contextual and less polemic manner. The course is taught from an acknowledged “abortion rights” perspective (that is, a belief in the desirability of legal abortion). However, we welcome students with various viewpoints. The course is offered on-line and students are expected to actively participate in weekly sessions.

The course is scheduled around the semester system, but special arrangements can be made for those on the quarter system.

Course Credit

To simplify assigning course credits, students taking this course must find a faculty member at their home institution willing to offer them an independent study program. The course credit will then be granted from the home institution. The course is designed as a four unit course. However, students and their independent study faculty advisors are responsible for determining how credits are granted and whether additional requirements will be needed.

Grading

Students will be graded on a pass/fail basis, but sponsoring faculty may opt to give students a letter grade. To complete this course successfully, students must participate actively in the weekly on-line “meeting,” do the assigned reading, complete 2 short papers (approximately 5 pp each), and a final exam.

Technical Requirements

Hardware

- Personal computer (PC or Mac) no more than 5 years old
- High speed internet access
- Dedicated phone line (must be able to access internet and telephone simultaneously)

Software - All required software is available cost-free on-line

- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Flash
- JavaScript

Required Reading

Most weeks, there will be approximately 75-85 pages of required reading. There is one required text which must be purchased separately. All other required readings are available on line at the course home page.

Required Text: Rose, Melody. 2007. *Safe, legal, and unavailable?: Abortion politics in the United States*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Class Discussion

You are expected to actively engage in class discussion on a weekly basis. If you have concerns about your ability to speak up in an online setting, please discuss this issue with the instructors prior to the first class.

Weekly Schedule of Course Content and Instructors (*some guests to be confirmed*)

Jan. 16, 2008	Introduction	Drs. Joffe and Weitz
Jan. 23, 2008	History of Abortion: Overview	Dr. Joffe Guest: Leslie Reagan, PhD
Jan. 30, 2008	History of Abortion: Continued	Dr. Weitz
Feb.6, 2008	Key legal cases	Dr. Weitz Guest: Talcott Camp, JD
Feb 13, 2008	Public Health Aspects of Abortion in the US	Dr. Weitz
Feb. 20, 2008	The Antiabortion Social Movement(s)	Dr. Joffe Guest: Carol Mason, PhD
Feb 27, 2008	Realities of Abortion Provision	Dr. Joffe Guest: Robin Rothrock
March 5, 2008	Abortion Provision continued	Dr. Weitz Guest: Suzanne Poppema, MD
March 12, 2008	Spring Break	
March 19, 2008	The Spread of Abortion Politics	Dr. Joffe
March 26, 2008	Abortion in Popular Culture	Dr. Weitz
April 2, 2008	Abortion in Public Opinion	Kate Cosby, MPH Guest: Kirstin Moore, MPA
April 9, 2008	New Debates over Abortion (Valuing the Fetus, Women Deserve Better)	Dr. Weitz Guest: Feminist For Life TBA
April 16, 2008	The Shift to Reproductive Justice	Dr. Weitz
April 23, 2008	Abortion in the International Arena	Dr. Weitz Guest: Suzanne Petroni
April 30, 2008	Concluding Class	

Reading Assignments (*Pending approval for use*)

Jan. 16, 2008 **Introduction**

Jan. 23, 2008 **History of Abortion**

- Rose, Melody. 2007. *Safe, legal, and unavailable?: Abortion politics in the United States*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Introduction, pp.1-19.
- Joffe, Carole. 1995. *Doctors of conscience: the struggle to provide abortion before and after Roe v. Wade*. Boston: Beacon Press, Chapters 2-4, pp.27-69.
- Reagan, Leslie J. 1991. "'About to Meet Her Maker': Women, Doctors, Dying Declarations, and the State's Investigation of Abortion, Chicago 1847-1940." *Journal of American History* 77:1240-1264.
- Miller, Patricia G. 1993. *The worst of times*. New York: HarperCollins. See pp. 122-139

Jan. 30, 2008 **History of Abortion: Continued**

- Joffe, Carole, Tracy A Weitz, and C. L. Stacey. 2004. "Uneasy allies: pro-choice physicians, feminist health activists and the struggle for abortion rights." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 26:775-96.
- Petchesky, Rosalind P. 1990. *Abortion and woman's choice: the state, sexuality, and reproductive freedom*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, pp. 67-100.
- Solinger, Rickie. 1992. *Wake up little Susie: single pregnancy and race before Roe v. Wade*. New York, NY: Routledge. See pp. 20-40.
- Fessler, Ann. 2006. *The girls who went away: the hidden history of women who surrendered children for adoption in the decades before Roe v. Wade*. New York: Penguin Press, pp.1-13.

Feb 6, 2008 **Public Health Aspects of Abortion in the US**

- Rose, Melody. 2007. *Safe, legal, and unavailable?: Abortion politics in the United States*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 1, pp.25-52.
- Boonstra, Heather D., Rachel Benson Gold, Cory L. Richards, and Lawrence B. Finer. 2006. "Abortion in Women's Lives." New York, NY: Guttmacher Institute.

Feb.13, 2008 **Key Legal Cases**

- Rose, Melody. 2007. *Safe, legal, and unavailable?: Abortion politics in the United States*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 2, pp.57-83.
- Balkin, J. M. 2005. "Roe v. Wade: An Engine of Controversy." Pp. 3-27 in *What Roe v. Wade should have said: the nation's top legal experts rewrite America's most controversial decision*, edited by J. M. Balkin. New York, NY: New York University Press.
- Ehrlich, J. Shoshanna. 2006. *Who decides?: the abortion rights of teens*. Westport, CT: Praeger, selections.
- Joffe, Carole. 2007. *The Abortion Procedure Ban: Bush's Gift to his Base*. Dissent Magazine

- Feb. 20, 2008 The Antiabortion Social Movement(s)**
- Luker, Kristin. 1984. *Abortion and the politics of motherhood*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 192-215.
 - Mason, Carol. 2002. *Killing for life: the apocalyptic narrative of pro-life politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, pp. 10-45
 - Hardisty, Jean V. 1999. Mobilizing resentment: conservative resurgence from the John Birch Society to the Promise Keepers. Boston: Beacon Press, selections.
- Feb 27, 2008 Realities of Abortion Provision**
- Rose, Melody. 2007. *Safe, legal, and unavailable?: Abortion politics in the United States*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 3-4, pp.87-156.
 - Watch: The Last Abortion Clinic, PBS
- March 5, 2008 Abortion Provision continued**
- Poppema, Suzanne T., and Mike Henderson. 1996. *Why I am an abortion doctor*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, selections
 - MSFC and PRCH materials
 - Harrison, William. 2005. "Why I Provide Abortions." New York, NY: Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health.
- March 12, 2008 Spring Break**
- March 19, 2008 The Spread of Abortion Politics**
- di Mauro, Diane, and Carole Joffe. 2007. "The Religious Right and the Reshaping of Sexual Policy: An Examination of Reproductive Rights and Sexuality Education." *Sexuality Research and Social Policy: Journal of NSRC* 4:67-92.
 - Page, Cristina. 2006. *How the Pro-choice Movement Saved America: Freedom, Politics and the War on Sex*. USA: Basic Books, pp.
 - Goldberg, Michelle. 2006. *Kingdom coming: the rise of Christian nationalism*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co., selections.
- March 26, 2008 Abortion in Popular Culture**
- Condit, Celeste Michelle. 1990. *Decoding abortion rhetoric: communicating social change*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. See pp. 22-42.
 - Isern, María Teresa Icart, Rosa Rozas García, and María del Carmen Icart Isern. 2007. "Vera Drake (2004) and The Cider House Rules (1999): the Abortion in the Cinema and its Use in teaching." *J Med Mov* 3 113-121.
 - Weitz, Tracy A, and Anthony Hunter. 2003. "Six Feet Under Brings Abortion to the Surface." *American Sexuality Magazine* 1:
 - Kushner, Eve. 1999. "Go Forth and Multiply." *Bitch Magazine* 11.
 - Aurthur, Kate. 2004. "Television's Most Persistent Taboo." in *New York Times*. New York, NY.
 - Navarro, Mireya. 2007. "On Abortion, Hollywood is No-Choice." in *New York Times*. New York, NY.

April 2, 2008

Abortion in Public Opinion

- Rose, Melody. 2007. *Safe, legal, and unavailable?: Abortion politics in the United States*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 5, pp.157-180.
- Alvarez, R. Michael, and John Brehm. 1995. "American Ambivalence Towards Abortion Policy: Development of a Heteroskedastic Probit Model of Competing Values." *American Journal of Political Science* 39:1055-1082.

April 9, 2008

New Debates over Abortion

- MacNair, Rachel, Mare Krane Derr, and Linda Naranjo-Huebl. 1995. "Introduction--Reclaiming Our Past: The Historical Beginnings of Pro-Life Feminism." Pp. 3-17 in *Prolife Feminism: Yesterday & Today*, edited by Rachel MacNair, Mare Krane Derr, and Linda Naranjo-Huebl. New York, NY: Sulzburger & Graham Publishing Ltd.
- Cannold, L. 2002. "Understanding and responding to anti-choice women-centred strategies." *Reprod Health Matters* 10:171-9.
- Kissling, Frances. 2004. "Is There Life After Roe? How to think about the fetus." *Conscience* XXV.
- Chamberlain, Pam. 2006. "Politicized Science: How Anti-Abortion Myths Feed the Christian Right Agenda." in *The Public Eye Magazine*.

April 16, 2008

The Shift to Reproductive Justice

- ACRJ. 2005. "A new vision for advancing our movement for reproductive health, reproductive rights, and reproductive justice." Oakland, CA: Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice (ACRJ).
- Arons, Jessica. 2006. "More Than A Choice: A Progressive Vision for Reproductive Health & Rights." Washington, DC: Center for American Progress.
- Rose, Melody. 2007. *Safe, legal, and unavailable?: Abortion politics in the United States*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 6, pp.181-195.

April 23, 2008

Abortion in the International Arena

- Sedgh, G., S. Henshaw, S. Singh, E. Ahman, and I. H. Shah. 2007. "Induced abortion: estimated rates and trends worldwide." *Lancet* 370:1338-45.
- IPAS. 2003. "5 Portraits Many Lives: How Unsafe Abortion Affects Women Everywhere." Chapel Hill, NC: IPAS.
- Crane, B. B., and J. Dusenberry. 2004. "Power and politics in international funding for reproductive health: the US Global Gag Rule." *Reprod Health Matters* 12:128-37.

April 30, 2008

Concluding Class