Please read this syllabus carefully. You are responsible for everything stated below.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Email: clee@sociology.rutgers.edu
Office: Sociology (Davison Hall, Douglass), Room 141
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and by appointment

The best way to reach me is by email. Please write “Soc 574” in the subject line so that I can recognize your email quickly. Also, please remember to sign your name in the email.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
“Politics of reproduction” refers to the intersection between politics and the life course generally. More specifically, we will consider the state’s regulation of biological and social reproduction wherein increasing governance of private life, intimacy, and sexuality suggests the blurring of boundaries between public and private interests. These state activities and policies include promoting fertility, attempts to curb population growth, limiting access to reproductive health care, and increasing governance of pregnancy—all of which have the potential to alter the meaning of gender, race, sexuality, families, and state. Drawing upon readings from varied perspectives and disciplines, we will explore these issues and themes around topics of pronatalist, antinatalist, and maternalist policies; identity formation and eugenics; abortion; pregnancy; teen pregnancy and sex education; and new reproductive technologies.

OBJECTIVES
1. Develop sociological lens for examining political regulation of reproduction
2. Critically evaluate social and biological reproduction
3. Identify theoretical and empirical gaps and overlaps in the literature
4. Identify core themes for pursuing future research on reproductive politics

REQUIREMENTS
1) Six weekly memos (30%): Short, one- to two-page memos that critically engage the readings (all available on Sakai). Do not summarize the materials but instead discuss the strengths and weaknesses and discover ways to make theoretical and/or empirical connections. Due every Wednesday by 12 NOON PRIOR to our class meeting – so that we all have sufficient time to read them in preparation for our class meetings. Please upload your memos onto Sakai (in Resources, Weekly Memos). Please read your classmates’ memos in preparation for discussion.

2) Seminar Leader (15%): Each of you will have an opportunity (depending on total number of students – solo or in small groups) to lead a weekly seminar. Using the weekly memos as a guide, prepare an agenda (to disseminate at the start of class) for discussion on the week’s topic and readings.
3) Class Participation (15%): A successful seminar requires the full participation of all members. I expect you to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and issues raised in each other’s memos.

4) Short research paper OR extended literature/book review (15 pages; 40%) DUE between 3/14 and 3/26 at 12 p.m. (in my mailbox)
   a. Short research paper: I realize that students in the course are at various stages of their training. For those of you at the start of your research, I encourage you to develop a research proposal or critical paper that evaluates the central issues of this course. Please see me early to get recommendations on additional readings. Those of you who have already begun research on related themes for qualifying papers or dissertation research are encouraged to write a paper that engages the course materials while extending your research agenda. This may be in preparation for a grant, qualifying paper, or dissertation proposal.

   b. Extended literature/book review: Select a couple of books published recently or a group of articles on a topic related to the course. Write a review of the literature, engaging the questions/themes raised in the course, new empirical or theoretical points generated, or research gaps that remain. This should NOT be a descriptive summary of the readings but instead an analytical paper.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: January 24**

*Introduction: The Politics of Reproduction*


**Recommended:**


Week 2: January 31
Nations, States, and Fertility: Pro-natlist, Anti-natalist, and Maternalist Policies


**Recommended:**


Week 3: February 7
Nations, States, and Fertility: Reproducing Identity


Recommended:


Week 4: February 14

*Abortion Politics and Fertility Control in the U.S.*


**Recommended:**


Week 5: February 21

Regulating Pregnancy


Recommended


Week 6: February 28

Teen Pregnancy as a Social Problem and Sex Education


Recommended


**Week 7: March 7**

*New Reproductive Technologies*


**Recommended:**


*** FINAL PAPER IS DUE B/W MARCH 14 – MARCH 26 (LAST DATE @ 12 P.M.) ***