Anthropology of Pregnancy and Birth  
(ANG6930/ANT4930)  
Wednesday Periods 5-7  
Location: RNK0280

Dr. Alyson Young  
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Office Hours: Thursdays 2-4 pm  
https://lss.at.ufl.edu

Course Overview  
This course uses a biocultural life course approach to examine pregnancy and birth in human populations. The class focuses on several aspects of maternal health including reproductive ecology and determinants of fertility, maternal-fetal nutrition, birth experience and the political ecology of maternal health. Each of these topics has a long history, and could be covered in an individual course, but this class endeavors to provide a systematic overview and foundation for understanding issues associated with global maternal health and the anthropology of reproduction across the life course.

Required Books (Additional articles will be made available electronically.)

Course Requirements and Grading  
Final grades are based on a total of 225 points. Point totals are calculated based on participation in class activities, discussion leadership, and the final research project.

Class Participation (100 pts.): I expect students to attend each class meeting and to take an active part in class discussions and activities. Active participation includes attendance but also requires that you read all assigned readings and prepare thoughtful questions and critical discussion points in advance of class meetings. I will evaluate your participation based on the quality of your contributions and not simply on how often you speak in class. The purpose of evaluating your participation is to encourage you to prepare for class and to promote thoughtful analysis and discussion. In this class, participation will be divided into two components:
1) Class participation and discussion (40 pts.)  
2) Leading discussion (60 pts.): starting the second week, students will lead group discussions on the readings each week.

Research Poster (125 pts) Students will be required to present a research project on a topic relating to maternal health. In lieu of the typical research paper, you will present a poster detailing the results of your research during the last week of classes. Development of the research project will occur throughout the semester. Grading rubrics for each part of the poster project will be provided.
1) You are required to submit a poster proposal outlining the topic of your research project by **Feb 1**; this proposal should describe the topic, including why the topic is important, and should identify some of the key questions or issues your project will explore (25 pts).  
2) A 250-300 word abstract (25 pts.), and annotated bibliography (25 pts.) with at least 15 carefully selected references from scholarly literature due **March 1**.  
3) You must submit a draft copy of your final poster (electronically) **April 12** (25 pts.)  
4) The final poster will be presented during regular class time on **either April 15 or April 22** (25 pts.)

Grades  
Final grades will be based on the following scale: A (90-100), A- (87-89), B+ (84-86), B (80-83), B- (77-79), C+ (74-76), C (70-76), C- (67-69), D+ (64-66), D (63-60), D- (57-59), E (<57).
**Policy on Late Assignments**
Students are required to complete all assignments by the stated due dates. Late assignments will lose one half-letter grade for each day past the deadline. There are no make-up opportunities for any assignment, as you will have ample time to complete each requirement. I will not assign grades of “incomplete” except in the most unusual, extreme circumstances (i.e. alien abduction). You must provide documentation of such circumstances from an appropriate authority. Assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the day assigned unless otherwise specified.

**Academic Honor Code**
Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code of the University of Florida. The Academic Honor Code is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student’s own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and responsibility on the part of the University community. Please see the following website for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code: [www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html).

**Americans with Disabilities Act**
Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific modifications. Students requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office and then provide documentation to the instructor. For more information about services available to University of Florida students:

Dean of Students Office Disability Resource Center
202 Peabody Hall or 0020 Reid Hall
Phone: (352) 392-1261 Phone: (352) 392-8570

**University of Florida Counseling Services**
Resources are available on-campus for students that feel like they are struggling in their personal or academic life. These resources include:
- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.
## Course Schedule and Readings

This is a preliminary schedule of topics and readings. The syllabus is a guide for the course and may be subject to change with advance notice.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (Jan 7) Course introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td>Familiarize yourself with course site and materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 (Feb 4)</td>
<td>Vulnerability and pregnancy</td>
<td>Read <em>Birth in the Age of AIDS</em> (Van Hollen)</td>
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Abstract and annotated bibliography due March 1 |
| Week 9 (Mar 4) Spring Break | --- |
| Week 10 (Mar 11) Childbearing: Cultural practices and birth technology | Read *Pushed* (Block) |

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<tr>
<th>Week 12 (Mar 25) <em>SfAA Meetings</em></th>
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<td>Week 13 (Apr 1) Mother – infant bonding</td>
<td>Read <em>Human Birth</em> (Trevathen)</td>
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<td>Poster draft due April 12</td>
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| Week 15 (Apr 15) Poster session I |  |
| Week 16 (Apr 22) Poster session II |  |