

ANG6930: Maternal Health and Nutrition

W 12:50-3:50 pm

105 Classroom Building (CBD) 0338

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Course Overview

This course uses a biocultural life course approach to examine variability in health among mothers across the world. 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

- 2010 Chapman, R. *Family Secrets: Risking Reproduction in Central Mozambique*. Vanderbilt Press, New York.
- 2005 Kitzinger, S. *The Politics of Birth*. Elsevier Press, New York.
- 2010 Symonds, M. and M. Ramsey (eds.) *Maternal-Fetal Nutrition during Pregnancy and Lactation*. Cambridge University Press, New York.
- 1996 Rosetta, L. and C.G. N. Mascie-Taylor (eds.) *Variability in Human Fertility*. Cambridge University Press, New York.
- Additional relevant articles will be made available electronically.

Course Format

This course is a seminar, as such, the primary format will be discussion. Each week a student will lead discussion based on the readings for a particular topic.

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades are based on a total of 300 points. Point totals are calculated based on participation in discussion, 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 (50 pts.)
- 2) Leading topic discussion (50 pts.)

Research Poster (175 pts.) You will be required to present a research project on a topic of your choice that relates 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 **Friday, February 11th**; 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 proposal abstract (25 pts.), and an annotated bibliography (25 pts.) with at least 20 carefully selected references from scholarly literature is due Friday, **March 25th**.
- 3) 3) You must submit a draft copy of your final poster (electronically) by **Friday, April 16th**. (50 pts.)
- 4) The final poster will be presented on **Wednesday April 18th** (also 50 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 (70-74), C- (67-69), D+ (64-66), D (63-60), D- (57-59), E (<57).

Policy on Late Assignments

You 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.

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

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.

Week 1 (Jan 5): Course overview

No Readings

Week 2 (Jan 12): Biocultural approaches to maternal health, nutrition, and fertility

Rosetta and Mascie-Taylor: Chapter 1

Chapman: Ch 1-2

- Victora, C. et al. (2008) Maternal and child undernutrition: consequences for adult health and human capital. *The Lancet*, 371: 340-357.
- McElroy, A. (1990) Biocultural Models in Studies of Human Health and Adaptation. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 4(3): 243-265.
- Cameroon, L. (1997) Biocultural Perspectives on Women's Health. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 105(4): 369-370.
- Arps, S. (2009) Threats to safe motherhood in Honduran Miskito communities: Local perceptions of factors that contribute to maternal mortality. *Social Science & Medicine*, 69:579-586.
- Joseph, S. (2004) The biocultural context of high fertility among the Bekaa Bedouin. *American Anthropologist*, 106(1): 140-144.

Additional Resources:

- WHO: Maternal Mortality Fact Sheet

***Public Lecture: Jan 11th at 7:30 pm Dr. Robert Sapolsky, "Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers"**

Week 3 (Jan 19): Demography

Rosetta and Mascie-Taylor: Ch 5 & 6

Chapman: Ch 3

- Kertzer, D. (2005) Anthropological Demography. In, *Handbook of Population*. Edited by D. Poston and M. Micklin. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers: New York. Pp. 525-547.
- Mace, R. (2000) Evolutionary ecology of human life history. *Animal Behavior*, 59:1-10.
- Hewlett, B.S. (1991) Demography and Childcare in Preindustrial Societies. *Journal of Anthropological Research*, 47(1): 1-37.
- Bhalotra, S. & A. von Soest (2008) Birth-spacing, fertility and neonatal mortality in India: Dynamics, frailty, and fecundity. *Journal of Econometrics*, 143: 274-290.
- Wood, J. (1990) Fertility in Anthropological Populations. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 19: 211-242.

Week 4 (Jan 26): Human Reproductive Ecology

Rosetta & Mascie-Taylor: Ch 2

- Vitzthum, V. (2008) Evolutionary Models of Women's Reproductive Functioning. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 37:53-73.
- Ellison, P. (2003) Energetics and Reproductive Effort. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 15: 342-351.
- Wasser, S. and N. Place (2001) Reproductive filtering and the social environment. In, *Reproductive Ecology and Human Evolution*. Edited by P. Ellison. Aldine: New York. Pp. 137-157.
- Ellison, P. Social relationships and reproductive ecology. In, *Endocrinology of Social Relationships*. Edited by P. Ellison and P. Gray. Harvard University Press: Boston. Pp. 54-73.

Week 5 (Feb 2): Culture and fertility behavior

Chapman: Ch 4-5

Rosetta and Mascie-Taylor: Ch 4

- Bledsoe, C. et al. (1994) Constructing natural fertility: The Use of Western Contraceptive Technologies in Rural Gambia. *Population and Development Review*, 20(1): 81-113.
- Dudgeon, M. and M. Inhorn (2004) Men's influences on women's reproductive health: Medical anthropological perspectives. *Social Science & Medicine*, 59: 1379-1395.
- Bledsoe, C et al. (1998) Reproductive Mishaps and Western Contraception: An African Challenge to Fertility Theory. *Population and Development Review*, 24(1): 15-57.

Week 6 (Feb 9): Reproductive Technology

- Becker, G. & R. Nachtigall (1994) 'Born to be a mother': The cultural construction of risk in infertility treatment in the U.S. *Social Science & Medicine*, 39(4): 507-518.
- Ettorre, E. (1999) Experts as 'storytellers' in reproductive genetics: exploring key issues. *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 21(5): 539-559.
- Faulkner, W. (2001) The Technology Question in Feminism: A View from Feminist Technology Studies. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 24(1): 79-95.
- Benyamini, Y. et al. (2005) Variability in the difficulties experienced by women undergoing infertility treatments. *Fertility & Sterility*, 83(2): 275-283.
- Inhorn, M. (2009) Right to assisted reproductive technology: Overcoming infertility in low-resource countries. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 106(2): 172-174.
- Smith, E et al. (2010) Reproductive tourism in Argentina: Clinic accreditation and its implications for consumers, health professionals and policy makers. *Developing World Bioethics*, 10(2): 59-69.

***Poster proposal due Feb 11th**

Week 7 (Feb 16): Vulnerability & Pregnancy

Chapman: Ch 6-7

Symonds & Ramsay: Ch 6, 14-15

Kitzinger: Ch 9-10

- Rosenberg, K. and W. Trevathan (2007) An anthropological perspective on the evolutionary context of preeclampsia in humans. *Journal of Reproductive Immunology*, 76:91-97.
- Bernazzani, O. and A. Bifulco (2003) Motherhood as a vulnerability factor in major depression: the role of negative pregnancy experiences. *Social Science & Medicine*, 56: 1249-1260.
- Sarkar, N. (2008) The impact of intimate partner violence on women's reproductive health and pregnancy outcome. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 28(3): 266-271.

Week 8 (Feb 23): Maternal Nutrition

Rosetta & Mascie-Taylor: Ch 10 & 11

Symonds & Ramsay: Ch 5, 7, 11, 16

- Bentley, G. et al. (1999) Women's strategies to alleviate nutritional stress in a rural African society. *Social Science & Medicine*, 48: 149-162.
- Kuzawa, C. (2005) Fetal Origins of Developmental Plasticity: Are Fetal Cues Reliable Predictors of Future Nutritional Environments? *American Journal of Human Biology*, 17:5-21.
- Pelto, G. (1987) Cultural Issues in Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition. *Social Science & Medicine*, 25(6): 553-559.
- Pike, I (2000) The Nutritional Consequences of Pregnancy Sickness: A Critique of a Hypothesis. *Human Nature*, 11(3): 207-232.

Week 9 (Mar 2): Fetal-Maternal Conflict

Symonds & Ramsay: Ch 1-3

- Haig, D. (1994) Genetic Conflicts in Human Pregnancy. *The Quarterly Review of Biology*. 68(4): 495-532.
- Markens, S. et al. (1997) Feeding the Fetus: On Interrogating the Notion of Maternal-Fetal Conflict. *Feminist Studies*, 23(2): 351-372.
- Gluckman, P. and M. Hanson (2004) Maternal constraint of fetal growth and its consequences. *Seminars in Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*, 9: 419-425.
- Fasouliotis, S. and J.G. Schenker (2000) Maternal-fetal Conflict. *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology*, 89:101-107.

***Public lecture: "Haiti: Public Health and Structural Change"**

Week 10 (Mar 9): SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (Mar 16): Impacts of stress during pregnancy

Rosetta & Mascie-Taylor: Ch 7

Symonds & Ramsay: Ch 17-18

Kitzinger: Ch 19-21

- Schell, L.M. (1997) Culture as a Stressor: A Revised Model of Biocultural Interaction. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 102:67-77.
- Bohn et al. (1996) Sequelae of Abuse: Health Effects of Childhood Sexual Abuse, Domestic Battering, and Rape. *Journal of Nurse-Midwifery*, 41(6): 442-456.
- Huizink et al. (2003) Stress during pregnancy is associated with developmental outcome in infancy. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 44(6): 810-818.
- Nepomnaschy, P. et al (2006) Cortisol levels and very early pregnancy loss in humans. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 103(10): 3838-3942.

Week 12 (Mar 23): Preterm delivery, IUGR, and birth weight

Symonds and Ramsay: Ch 4, 8-10

Kitzinger: Ch 4-6, 18

- Pike, I.L. (2004) Maternal Stress and Fetal Responses: Evolutionary Perspectives on Preterm Delivery. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 17:55-65.
- Moutquin, J. (2003) Classification and heterogeneity of preterm birth. *BJOG*, 110 (Suppl 20): 30-33.
- Mackey, M et al. (2000) Stress, pre-term labor and birth outcomes. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 32(3): 666-674.
- Lane, S. (2008) Structural violence, urban retail food markets, and low birth weight. *Health & Place*, 14:415-423.

Week 13 (Mar 30): Childbearing: Cultural Practices and Birth Technology

Chapman: Ch 8

Kitzinger: Ch 1-3, 7-8, 11-17, 22

- Piperata, B. (2008) Forty Days and Forty Nights: A Biocultural Perspective on postpartum practices in the Amazon. *Social Science and Medicine*, 67:1094-1103.
- Chapman, R. (2003) Endangering safe motherhood in Mozambique: prenatal care as pregnancy risk. *Social Science & Medicine*, 57: 355-374.
- Petchesky, R. P (1987) Fetal Images: The Power of Visual Culture in the Politics of Reproduction. *Feminist Studies*, 13(2): 263-292.

- Sanger, C. (2008) *Seeing and Believing: Mandatory ultrasound and the path to a protected choice*. Columbia Law School: Public Law and Legal Theory Working Paper Group. Paper #09-195

***Poster abstract and annotated bibliography due March 25**

Week 14: (Apr 6): Breastfeeding

- Hausman, B (2007) Things (Not) to Do with Breasts in Public: Maternal Embodiment and the Biocultural Politics of Infant Feeding. *New Literary History*, 38(3): 479-504.
- McKenna, J. (1997) Bedsharing Promotes Breastfeeding. *Pediatrics*, 100:214-219.
- Scavenius, M. et al. (2007) In practice, the theory is different: A processual analysis of breastfeeding in northeast Brazil. *Social Science & Medicine*, 64: 676-688.
- Zeitlyn, S. and R. Rowshan (1997) Privileged Knowledge and Mothers "Perceptions": The Case of breastfeeding and insufficient milk in Bangladesh. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 11(1): 56-68.
- Vitzthum, V. (2005) Comparative study of breastfeeding structure and its relation to human reproductive ecology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 37(S19): 307-349.
- McDade, T. and C. Worthman (1998) The weanling's dilemma reconsidered: a biocultural analysis of breastfeeding ecology. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*, 19(4): 286-299.

Week 15: (Apr 12): Menopause

- Leidy Sievert, L. (2001) Menopause as a Measure of Population Health: An Overview. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 13:429-433.
- Melby et al. (2005) Culture and symptom reporting at menopause. *Human Reproduction Update*, 11(5): 495-512.
- Cant, M. and R.A. Johnstone (2008) Reproductive conflict and the separation of reproductive generations in humans. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 105(14): 5332-5336.
- Hawkes, K. et al. (1998) Grandmothering, menopause, and the evolution of human life histories. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 95: 1336-1339.
- Walker, M.L. & J. Herndon (2008) Menopause in Nonhuman Primates? *Biology of Reproduction*, 79: 398-406.
- Lock, M. (2001) The Tempering of Medical Anthropology: Troubling Natural Categories. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 15(4): 478-492.

Week 16 (Apr 20): Student Poster Sessions