Reproduction in Modern Society
“The Personal is Political.” – Carol Hanisch.

The course will be broken off into three parts: the biology behind reproduction, an intersectional approach to reproductive justice, and practical integration of the course materials.

The class will first explore the question, “What is reproduction?” Further into the course, students will discuss how the above inquiry relates to justice. Other topics include: Global (In)fertility, Disparities, Bio-Ethics of reproductive technologies, Contraceptives, Abortion/Miscarriage, Feminist Perspective(s) of the (F)emale Body, and Reproductive Rights. We will also have guest speakers from various professional fields, including faculty from UCSF School of Medicine.

Expect this to be an eye-opening, controversial, and thought-provoking class. The course is heavily discussion-based and participation from every student is highly encouraged! Students will prepare a final presentation related to the topics of the course, allowing the integration of the course materials to the community.

Course Requirements
Final grades will be determined by the following elements:
1. Quiz - 10 pts total
2. Current event write-up - 15 pts.
3. Article discussion leader - 20 pts.
4. Participation (Attendance and participation in discussions) - 35pts.
5. Gallery presentation/final project (mandatory) - 25 pts.

In order to pass the course, a minimum of 70 points is required. Points will be awarded based on the quality of the work. No late assignments or make-up quizzes will be accepted. There will be opportunities for students to make up points by attending a relevant event and writing a short response. A maximum of 2 absences are allowed, with prior notification to the facilitators.

Weekly readings will be posted on the bcourses page. It is the student’s responsibility to regularly check the site and complete readings accordingly.

Key Learning Outcomes
- Understand the biology behind reproduction, and how it can lead to problems of infertility
- Be familiar with the current medical options for infertile couples looking to conceive
• Appreciate the various medical, social, and legal aspects surrounding the topic of reproductive rights
• Be able to critically analyze the platforms and stakeholders of issues on rights and access to reproductive health services

**Academic Integrity**
You will be held responsible for understanding and acting according to the information on plagiarism that is posted on the student conduct page: Plagiarism (intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise) will not be tolerated and will lead to a NO PASS in the course. 
http://students.berkeley.edu/osl/sja.asp?id=4068

**TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**
**Finish readings prior to class**

__________________PART I: Medical Perspectives_____________________

**Week 1: Introduction: What is Reproduction?**
*Will go over syllabus and hand out CCNs*

**Week 2: Anatomy and Physiology**
Readings:
1. “Overview of the Male and Female Reproductive Systems” [Boundless]
2. “A Brief History of the Birth Control Pill” [PBS]
3. “The Different Stakes of Male and Female Birth Control” [The Atlantic]

Guest Speaker: [Lindsay Barbic - Planned Parenthood]

**Week 3: The Ethics of Alternative Reproductive Strategies**
**Quiz 1 on Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology**
Readings:
1. “Human Gene Editing is Leaving Ethics Dangerously Far Behind” [HuffPost]
2. “The First Artificial Insemination was an Ethical Nightmare” [The Atlantic]
3. “Artificial Womb Shows Promise in Animal Study” [NPR]

Guest Speaker: [Medical Students for Choice – ART ethics and outcomes]

__________________PART II: Social Perspectives_____________________

**Week 4: What is Fertility? - A Cross-Cultural Perspective**
Readings:


3. “Sperm Counts Plummet in Western Men, Study Finds” [NPR]

Guest Speaker: [Dr. Chris Herndon – Disparities in Access to Reproductive Health Services]

**Week 5: Disparities in Access to Reproductive Health**

**Current event write up due. See Bcourses handout for specific requirements.**

Readings:

1. “Pregnant Women’s Medical Care Too Often Affected By Race”, 2016 [Newsweek]


4. “Black Women are still fighting for our lives even if the GOP health care bill fails”, 2017 [National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda]

Guest Speaker: [Anna Lederman – Role of Doulas/Midwife and Disparities in Access to Reproductive Health Services]

**Week 6: Legal Aspects of ART and Reproduction**

Readings:


2. “This New App is Tinder for Sperm and Egg Donors” [HuffPost]

Guest Speaker: [Shelley Tarnoff, MFT – Legal Aspects of ART]

**Week 7: Reproductive Rights in the Political Sphere**

Readings:


2. Choose one of the following:
   1. “Planned Parenthood: Teach your preschoolers ‘their genitals don’t determine their gender’” [Fox News]
   2. “Planned Parenthood thinks four-year-old girls should be told they might be boys” [Fox News]


**Week 8: Reproduction and Abortion in the Media**

Assignment Due: *After reviewing this week’s readings/videos, if you could reach out to the people promoting inflammatory, extreme-right wing ideas about abortion & women’s health,*
what would you say? Please provide a 1-page written response to one of the articles or videos listed below.

Readings:
1. “Samantha Bee’s Dishonest Attack on Catholic Hospitals”, 2016 [National Review]
2. “Abortion is a women’s issue. So why do men dominate media coverage of it?”, 2017 [The Washington Post]
3. VIDEO: Milo Yiannopoulos on Abortion, 2016. [Daily Liberty via Youtube]
4. VIDEO: Ted Cruz on David Daleiden, Planned Parenthood, & Abortion, 2016 [Fox News] *(starts at 4 min 8 sec, ends at 6 min 32 sec)

Guest Speaker: [Dr. Lori Freedman – Abortion in the Media]

Week 9: Birth—A Cross-cultural Perspective [religion]
Readings:
1. “Inside the Strange, Heartbreaking, Relentless Quest for a Christian Fertility Treatment” [Mother Jones]

Guest Speaker: [Hsiu-Li Cheng, RN, CNM – Modern Midwifery]

Week 10: Family Planning: Contraceptive Methods and Unplanned Pregnancies
**Gallery Presentation Proposal Due
Readings:
2. Contraception and Unintended Pregnancy in Uganda [Guttmacher Institute]
3. “Why it’s Become so Hard to get an Abortion” [The New Yorker]

Week 11: Forced Sterilization and Eugenics in the US
Readings:
1. “When Forced Sterilization was Legal in the U.S.” [Jstor]
3. “‘Imbeciles’ Explores Legacy of Eugenics in America” [NPR]
4. Please listen if you have time:
   1. “The Supreme Court Ruling That Led To 70,000 Forced Sterilizations” [NPR]

Documentary Screening: The State of Eugenics [date/time tbd]

Week 12: No Class, Thanksgiving Break

Week 13: End of Semester Gallery Evening, Details TBA
* Students will present their final projects