



Course Title: A History of Reproductive Rights in the United States
Course Code: HIS 11
Instructor: Margo Horn

Course Summary:

Since the late 19th century, a woman's right to control her intimate reproductive life in the United States has emerged as a publicly contested arena. This course explores the long history of women's reproductive lives in the US as the context for this struggle. Topics include the history of women's sexuality, birth control and abortion, in their political, moral, religious and legal frameworks.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Note About Live Attendance and Recording:

Although these class sessions will be recorded, participation in the live classes is encouraged as the best way to get the full benefit of the course and engage in class discussions.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - Students must attend at least [4] of the live class sessions and may watch the [5th].
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
 - Students must attend [4] of the live class sessions and may watch the [5th] and complete an essay of no more than 3 double-spaced pages on a topic approved by the instructor by April 13 and submitted by April 27. *More information to follow in class.*

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1: March 30: Introduction to the themes of the course: what are reproductive rights?

The surprising long history of women's reproductive lives: reproduction as woman's function; late 19th century public regulation; women's assertions of reproductive rights; the emerging clash of absolutes.

Week 2: April 6:

The history of women's sexuality, pregnancy and motherhood from the 18th century to the present: ideas and ideals; medical practices; laws; politics and policies.

Week 3: April 13:

The history of birth control in the US: changing methods and technology; ; Eugenics, race and sterilization; morality and politics; access and self-determination; privacy and power.

Week 4: April 20:

The history of abortion in the US: religious, legal, political and medical frameworks; the clash of absolutes.

Week 5: April 27:

Current contests over reproductive rights in light of history; the stakes for the future.