EXTD 202: Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to Abortion
Adrienne Asch
1:30-4:00 p.m. Wednesdays
Founders Hall, Room 225
Teaching Office: Founders, rm. 322F
Program Office: Founders, rm. 215
x3248; e-mail: aasch

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Readings for this course will be drawn from three sources: Photocopied articles available on Reserve (X); sections from books on Reserve (R); and the following three books which you are required to buy (B):

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Active participation in class discussions.
2. Short 3-5-page book review and class presentation on March 8.
3. Section of class project and 5-page paper due April 12.
4. Longer paper analyzing one topic (approved by instructor on April 26) due on May 19.

OFFICE HOURS:

I will generally be available on Wednesdays and Thursdays from immediately after class until 6 p.m. in Founders 322F. Individual conferences may also be scheduled at other times.
CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS:

February 1: Overview of seminar; viewing and discussion of film, "Casting the First Stone."

February 8: Choosing Abortion: Personal Accounts of Decisions and Experiences.

- "Jo," pp. 39-45
- "Joyce," pp. 47-57
- "Nicole," pp. 59-68
- "Denise," pp. 79-83
- "Alisia," pp. 85-90
- "Lisa," pp. 91-102


February 15: The Biology and Medicine of Abortion: Embryonic and Fetal Development; Methods of Abortion.

Guest Speaker: Joan Hoffman, PreTerm Health Services


Recommended readings:


February 22: No Class.

March 1: Psychological and social issues in unintended pregnancy: Effects on women, partners, and families. What does the literature tell us about how women decide, how male partners respond, how the adoption experience affects children, relinquishing parents, and adoptive parents.


Additional sections from Butler and Walbert to be announced.

March 8: Abortion in the United States from 1790-1973: Differing Versions of Pre-Roe History.

Students will select one account from several different accounts of abortion in the United States and will prepare a short class presentation and a short written commentary on the account they read. The papers and presentations should include the account’s basic message and views, questions unanswered, and questions raised. Examples of possible texts:


March 15: Religious Perspectives and Philosophical Arguments on Abortion


In addition, students will read selections from the following:


The Abortion Controversy: A Reader. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, pp. 155-173. (B)

March 22: Abortion and the Women's Movement. Feminist Views on Abortion: Are they different from the standard philosophical discussions?


April 5: Abortion and Women, II: Feminists Who Question Abortion; Women Scholars the Activists in Pro-Choice and Pro-Life Movements:
Other readings from Feminists for Life organization.

April 12: Second Assignment due. Class presentations on information and options for dealing with unintended pregnancy.

April 19: Abortion Today: *Roe* and Its Aftermath.


April 26: Selective Abortion: A Different Kind of Abortion Decision? Sex Selection, Abortion for Fetal Disability, Abortion to reduce the number of fetuses being carried.


May 3: Paying for Abortion: Should Health Insurance or Public Funds Pay for Abortion for Non-Medical Reasons?

*Harris v. McRae.* U.S. Reports 448 Oct Term 1979, 297. (X)

May 10: Abortion Politics: Protesting Abortion: Free Speech or Harassment?
