



# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology  
Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

## LWSO 401.12 Special Topics in Law and Society: Medicine, Reproduction, & Law

• Semester: Fall 2018 • Day and Time: T/R 12:30-1:45 • Location: KNB 126

**Instructor:** Erna Kurbegović  
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**Phone:** 403-220-4665  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:15 – 12:15

### Course Description

This course examines the role of the state and other institutions in regulating reproduction in Canada and other Western nations from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onward. Through the use of historical and contemporary case studies, students will be exposed to historical, medical, and legal perspectives in order to gain a better understanding of the politics of reproduction. Major topics will include the importance of reproductive health to nation-states; the ideology of eugenics and its short and long term impacts; the birth control movements; reproductive rights; and reproductive technologies.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

In addition to developing a broad understanding of historical and contemporary relationships between medicine, reproduction, and law, students will also develop skills in oral and written communication, critical thinking, source analysis, and small group work.

## **Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials**

All readings will be provided through links in the course outline or by the instructor on D2L.

## **Methods of Evaluation**

Class Participation: Ongoing (10%)

Midterm: **October 18, 2018** (30%), closed book

Final Project: **December 6, 2018** (30%), hardcopy

Final Exam: Scheduled by the registrar (30%), closed book.

**Class participation** will be assessed through in-class group assignments. These assignments will be based on the weekly readings. Marks will be awarded to each student participating in these group discussions. There are a total of 11 discussion sessions marked out of 10, if you anticipate missing more than one group assignment, please see the instructor to make alternative arrangements. Most discussions will take place during the second half of Thursday classes.

**The midterm exam** will be written on **October 18, 2018 (75 minutes)**. It will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. More information will be provided by the instructor.

**Final Project:** For this project, students will work individually and collaboratively to create a “Year in Review” newspaper that chronicles events related to medicine, reproduction, and law during a key year. The newspaper will consist of at least three news stories and three supplementary elements. All of the information included in the newspaper must be properly documented with in-text citation, footnotes, or endnotes. This project will allow students to communicate in a way accessible to a non-specialist reader, to express their creativity, and to work in a group setting. Further details will be provided in class and posted on D2L by the instructor. **Due December 6 in class.**

**The final exam** will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions (**75 minutes**). **The exam will not be cumulative**, and will only cover material discussed after the midterm.

## Final Exam Information

Scheduled by the registrar (30%), closed book.

## Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

## Policy for late assignments

Late assignments will be penalized up to a half grade/day.

## Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

## **Technology Use**

Laptops and tablets are permitted in the classroom for taking lecture notes only. Cell phones are to be avoided during lectures. Please be sure to mute your cell phone, and use only in case of an emergency.

## **Email**

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails violating customary email conventions will be ignored. All other emails will be answered within one business day. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

## **Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at **MacEwan Student Centre - North Courtyard**

## **Handing in Papers, Assignments**

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

## **Ethics Research**

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the

approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

### **Deferrals**

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

**Deferred Final Exam Form:** Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at

[https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf)

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

### **Student Representation**

The 2018-19 Students’ Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington ([suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student’s Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

## **Safewalk**

The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

## **Academic Accommodation**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

## **Student Resources**

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week One: September 6**

Introduction to the course

No readings

### **Week Two: September 11, 13**

Introduction continued: Reproductive Politics

In-class Library Session with Sara Klein (Tuesday)

Reading: Rickie Solinger, “Introduction: What is Reproductive Politics?” in *Pregnancy and Power : A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America* (2005) pgs. 1-25.

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/reader.action?docID=865352&ppg=9>

**Week Three: September 18, 20**

Eugenics, Law, and Involuntary Sterilization Part 1

Readings: Buck v. Bell, 274 U.S. 200 (1927) **posted on D2L**

Paul Lombardo, “Carrie Buck versus Dr. Priddy” in *Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court, and Buck v. Bell* (2002) pgs. 112-135.

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/reader.action?docID=4398321&ppg=129>

**Week Four: September 25, 27**

Eugenics, Law, and Involuntary Sterilization Part 2

Readings: Alberta’s Sexual Sterilization Act (1928) **Posted on D2L**

Jana Grekul, “Sterilization in Alberta, 1928 to 1972: Gender Matters,” *Canadian Review of Sociology* 45, no.3 (2008): 247-266.

Documentary: Surviving Eugenics (Thursday’s class)

**Week Five: October 2, 4**

Birth Control and the Law Part 1

Reading: Revie, L., “‘More than just boots!’ The eugenic and commercial concerns behind A. R. Kaufman's birth controlling activities,” *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 23 (2006): 119–43.

Short News Clip: Looking Back at the Birth Control Movement, *CBC* (November 11, 1962)

## **Week Six: October 9, 11**

Birth Control and the Law Part 2

Reading: “The Pill Turns 50,” *The Globe and Mail* (2010):

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/conditions/the-pill-turns-50/article572652/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&page=all>

### **Exam Information Session**

## **Week Seven: October 16, 18**

Contraceptive Sterilization?

Readings: Erika Dyck, “Sterilization and Birth Control in the Shadow of Eugenics: Married, Middle Class Women in Alberta, 1930-1960s,” *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 31 (2014): 165-188.

### **Midterm Exam on Thursday!!!**

## **Week Eight: October 23, 25**

Abortion Part 1

Readings: Beth Palmer, “‘Lonely, tragic but legally necessary pilgrimages’: Transnational Abortion Travel in the 1970s,” *Canadian Historical Review* 92, no.4 (2011): 637-64.

“A Man and his conscience: Dr. Henry Morgentaler...” *The Globe and Mail* (September 14, 1974) **posted on D2L**



## **Week Nine: October 30, November 1**

### Abortion Part 2

Sandra Rodgers, “Abortion Denied: Bearing the Limits of Law” in *Just Medicare: What's In, What's Out, How We Decide* edited by Colleen M. Flood (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006): 107-36. <http://deslibris.ca.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/ID/418815>

After 35 years, abortions are finally available in P.E.I. *Maclean's* (February 3, 2017)

<https://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/after-35-years-abortion-available-in-pei/>

## **Week Ten: November 6, 8**

### Reproductive Technologies

“Test tube mother has girl” *The Guardian* (1978) **posted on D2L**

“Unnatural selection: Is evolving reproductive technology ushering in a new age of eugenics?” *The Globe and Mail* (2012): <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/unnatural-selection-is-evolving-reproductive-technology-ushering-in-a-new-age-of-eugenics/article1357885/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

Roberts, Dorothy. 2009. ““Race, Gender, and Genetic Technologies: A New Reproductive Dystopia?”” *Signs* 34(4): 783-804.

## **Week Eleven: Term Break, No Classes!**

## **Week Twelve: November 20, 22**

### Reproductive Technologies continued...

Film: *Gattaca*, followed by a discussion

**Week Thirteen: November 27, 29**

Reproductive Technologies continued...

Readings: Assisted Human Reproduction Act (Canada): Prohibitions Related to Surrogacy: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/biologics-radiopharmaceuticals-genetic-therapies/legislation-guidelines/assisted-human-reproduction/prohibitions-related-surrogacy.html>

Heather Jacobson, “Making Reproduction Profitable: The Contemporary Surrogacy Market” in *Labor of Love: Gestational Surrogacy and the Work of Making Babies* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2006): 14-43. **Posted on D2L.**

**Week Fourteen: December 4, 6**

Reproductive Technologies continued...

Readings: Laura Mamo, “‘Real Lesbians Don’t Have Kids’ or Do They? Getting Ready for Lesbian Motherhood” in *Queering Reproduction: Achieving Pregnancy in the Age of Technoscience* (2007): 58-85. **Posted on D2L.**

Della Wolf is B.C.'s 1st child with 3 parents on birth certificate. *CBC News* (February 6, 2014)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/della-wolf-is-b-c-s-1st-child-with-3-parents-on-birth-certificate-1.2526584>

Final Exam information Session (Thursday)

**Final Project due on Thursday in class!!!**

