COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course has two basic objectives: (1) to provide students with an understanding of the scientific and technical aspects of infertility and assisted reproduction, and (2) to enable students to understand and contribute to the debate sparked by these technologies. The course will bring together faculty from the humanities, social sciences, the Medical School, facilitating a multidisciplinary approach to address a variety of ethical, social, and legal questions concerning assisted reproduction.

FACULTY:

Judy E. Stern, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
By appointment, phone: 653-9248 and available on email

Ronald M. Green, Department of Religion  
Office: 255 Haldeman Phone: 646-1263  
Office hours: Wednesday, 12:30-2:30 or by appointment

Catherine P. Cramer, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences  
Office: 258 Moore Phone: 646-3459  
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.

READINGS:


Additional readings posted on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Report on Book: (30% of grade)  
Written reports due *February 6*  
Class presentations on *February 13*  
Specific instructions will be distributed in class.

Individual Research Paper: (35% of grade)  
**Paper topic due: February 1** **Final Paper Due: March 1**  
More specific instructions about the paper will be distributed in class. The maximum page length for the paper is 15 pages (4800 words).

Final Exam: (35% of grade) Comprehensive, objective and short answer portions.  
*March 13, 8 a.m.*
Note the following policy on late papers: Papers will be accepted late, but grades will be reduced by 10% for each day that they are late (including weekend days).

Students who anticipate having any difficulty in meeting these requirements (e.g., due to scheduling conflicts or to hidden disabilities) should speak to the instructors as soon as possible, but no later that the second week of classes.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Session #1 – Jan 4**
- Introduction to course/Introduction to faculty
- Course outline, Goals & requirements
- Preparation for multiple perspectives, multidisciplinary approach
- Student narrative exercise

**Session #2 – Jan 9**
- Social aspects of the family
- Issues in adoption

**Readings:**


**Session #3 – Jan 11**
- Biology of reproduction
- Clinical aspects of infertility

**Readings:**

Daar, Ch. 1, pp. 1-25


Fernando Zegers-Hochschild, F., Nygren, K.-G. David Adamson, G., de Mouzon, J, Lancaster, P., Mansour, R., Sullivan, E. *The International Committee Monitoring Assisted*

Session #4 – Jan 16  (Guest: Elizabeth Mannheim)
• Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART): In vitro fertilization (IVF); Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI); Cytoplasmic transfer; In vitro maturation
• Success rates and risks

Readings:
Daar, Ch 1, pp 25-57


Session #5 – Jan 18
• Ethical and Legal Issues in ART
• Religious issues in ART

Readings:
Darr, Ch. 2


Session #6 – Jan 23 (probably held in evening)
• Panel discussion with couples who have dealt with infertility

Readings:
Session #7 – Jan 25
• Donor insemination
• Clinical, social, ethical and legal aspects of DI
• Posthumous reproduction

Readings:
Daar, Ch 3, pp 201-219, Ch 5, 395-410, and Ch. 6


Session #8 – Jan 30
• Surrogacy: Social and legal aspects

Readings:
Daar, Ch. 5, pp. 410-488

Session #9 – Feb 1  PAPER TOPICS DUE
• Freezing and disposition of embryos
• Legal challenges
• Oocyte freezing

Readings:
Darr, Ch. 1, pp. 56-84, and Ch. 7


Session #10 – Feb 6  WRITTEN BOOK REPORTS DUE

Guest lecture: DEBRA SPAR

Session #11 – Feb 8
• Regulations and accountability
• Insurance issues
• Commercial aspects

Readings:
Meredith A. Reynolds et al., “Does Insurance Coverage Decrease the Risk for Multiple Births Associated with Assisted Reproductive Technology?” *Fertility and Sterility* 80/1 (July 2003), 16-23.

**Session #12 – Feb 13**

**BOOK PRESENTATIONS**

**Session #13 – Feb 15**
- Embryo research
- Oocyte/embryo donation for reproductive and research purposes
- Legal, moral, social issues of oocyte/embryo donation

**Readings:**

Darr, Ch. 3, pp 220-248, Ch. 5, pp. 488-501


**Session #14 – Feb 20**
- Genetics and eugenics
- Preimplantation genetic diagnosis
- Legal and social aspects of genetic screening

**Readings:**

Darr, Ch. 4

Julian Savulescu, “Procreative Beneficence: Why We Should Select the Best Children” *Bioethics* 15:5/6, 413-426.

**Session #15 – Feb 22**
- Cloning: biomedical, therapeutic, and reproductive
- Stem cell research

**Readings:**

Darr, Chs. 9-10
Leon Kass, “The Wisdom of Repugnance”

Ronald M. Green, “I, Clone”


**Session #16 – Feb 27**
- Setting limits: When is enough too much? Who sets the limits?
- Issues of age & sexual orientation
- Issues of access

**Readings:**


Daar, Ch. 5, pp. 501-526

**Session #17 – March 1**  **PAPERS DUE**
- Literary and religious visions

**Readings:**


Nancy Kress, “Sisters”

**Session #18 – March 6**
- Emerging issues
- Course conclusion
FINAL EXAM – March 13, 8:00 a.m. - location TBA