



Course: WMS 350: Special Topics: The Abortion Debate
Dr. Victoria Tepe

Welcome

- Instructor Contact Information
- Standards of Communication
- When to use Discussion
- When to Use E-Mail

Course Objectives

Course Syllabus

- Required Textbooks
- Expectations and Grading
- How to use the Internet
- Weekly Assignments
- Midterm paper
- Final project

Assignment: Please introduce yourself

Week 1: Introduction

Questions and Answers

Introductory Lectures Notes

Assignment: What do you know about abortion?

Week 2: History and Practice of Abortion in the U.S. Prior to 1973

Lecture Notes

Readings

- Download
- Link

Assignment: What if...?

Week 3: Abortion Law and Landmark Court Decisions

Readings

- Link to Roe v. Wade Oral Argument
- Download Roe v. Wade Oral Argument (must have RealPlayer for this .RA file)

· Download Roe v. Wade Oral Argument as text document

Assignment: Roe v. Wade

Week 4: Legislative Trends, Politics, and Social Opinion since 1973

Readings

Links

Assignment: Compare and contrast: state-level restrictions on abortion

Week 5: Fetal Life

Lecture Notes

Links to Readings

Assignment: Compare and contrast: pro-life vs. pro-choice perspectives on fetal life

Week 6: Religious Perspectives on Abortion

Lecture Notes

Links to Readings

Assignment: Compare and contrast: religious perspectives on abortion

Week 7: Midterm Due

Week 8: Methods of Abortion (RU-486)

Lecture Notes

Links

Assignment: Call a clinic

Week 9: Methods of Abortion (D&X)

Links

Download

Assignment: Current legal status of "partial-birth" abortion

Week 10: Rhetoric vs. Reality

Readings

Links

Assignment: Interview an anti-abortion activist

Week 11: Inside the Clinic

Readings

Links

Assignment: Interview a clinic director

Week 12: Medical Perspectives on Abortion

Readings

Links

Assignment: Interview a physician

Week 13: Can the Abortion Debate be won?

Readings

Links

Assignment: Is common ground possible ... or useful?

Week 14: Final Projects

You may use this week to finish your final projects.

Extra Readings and Resources (Optional)

Week 15: Final Projects Due

Class meeting: Movie Night!

Special Topics: The Abortion Debate

WMS/SOC 350

Spring 2001

Dr. Victoria Tepe

"...the personal always slips out of the grasp of the political. It seethes and squirms, it bites and soothes in ways that make all rhetoric seem like baby talk, while real life is experienced in the parentheses, in the subclause, in the ironies." - Anne Roiphe

Course texts and readings

- (1) Tribe, Laurence H. (1992), *Abortion: The Clash of Absolutes*, W. W. Norton & Company
- (2) Rodman, H., Sarvis, B., Bonar, J. (1987), *The Abortion Question*, Columbia University Press

Press

- (3) Readings on reserve at the UMD library (see attached list of sources and texts)

NOTE: All required readings should be read prior to the class session for which they are listed. These readings are essential to your class preparation and participation in that class session.

Course requirements

Class attendance, participation and preparation (33%)

Mid-term paper (33%)

Final project (33%)

Course Outline

Week 1 (1/31): Introduction and overview, course objectives and policies.

Week 2 (2/7): History and practice of abortion in the U.S. prior to 1973

Required readings for this session:

Tribe, Chapter 3

Miller, pp. 309-328 (on reserve)

Reagan, pp. 19-45 (on reserve)

Baehr, pp. 7-20 (on reserve)

Week 3 (2/14): History of abortion law and landmark court decisions

Required readings for this session:

Tribe, Chapter 2

Tribe, Afterword (pp. 243-256)

Rodman et al., Chapters 1 & 6

Week 4 (2/21): The more things change... (legislative trends, politics, social opinion and policy since Roe)

Required readings for this session:

Tribe, Chapters 7 & 8

Rodman et al., Chapters 7 & 8

http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/abort_law_status.html

<http://www.naral.org/mediaresources/publications/2000/whod.html>

Week: 5 (2/28): At the clinic: "life," "choice" and ... reality

Required readings for this session:

Ginsberg, F.D., pp. 76-129 (on reserve)

Scheidler, J.M., pp. 25-27, 96-97, 139-148, 163-165 (on reserve)

Cozzarelli & Major, pp. 81-104 (on reserve)

Week 6 (3/7): Abortion patients: who, how, when, where, why?

Required readings for this session:

Rodman et al., Chapter 5

Henshaw & Kost, pp. 140-158 (on reserve)

Russo, Horn & Schwartz, pp. 182-201 (on reserve)

Hoshiko, pp. 85-90, 103-112, 131-140 (on reserve)

>>> MID-TERM PAPERS ARE DUE <<<

Week 7 (3/14): Contemporary issues: D&X ("partial birth") abortion

Required readings for this session:

U.S. Supreme Court, Stenberg v. Carhart (on reserve)

<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/99-830.ZS.html>

MS., pp. 54-63 (on reserve)

Annas (1), pp. 279-283 (on reserve)

Annas (2), pp. 152-156 (on reserve)

Week 8 (3/28): Contemporary issues: RU-486 (Mifeprex)

Required readings for this session:

Joffe, pp. 151-154 (on reserve)

Claire, pp. 135-160 (on reserve)

>>>FINAL PROJECT APPROVAL DEADLINE <<<

Week 9 (4/4): Fetal life I: religious/ethical viewpoints

Required readings for this session:

Roleff, pp. 31-48 (on reserve)

Doerr & Prescott, pp. 5-28 (on reserve)

Steffen, pp. 260-281 (on reserve)

Week 10 (4/11): Fetal life II: scientific viewpoints

Required readings for this session:

Tribe, Chapter 6

Morowitz & Trefil, pp. 43-58 (on reserve)

Morowitz & Trefil, pp. 105-127 (on reserve)

Tepe/the Body Politic, pp. 8-10 (on reserve)

Week 11 (4/18): Medical perspectives on abortion

Required readings for this session:

Rodman et al., pp. 45-62

New York Times Magazine, pp. 20-27 (on reserve)

Hern, pp. 48-54 (on reserve)

Gans Epner et al., pp. 724-729 (on reserve)

Week 12 (4/25): Abortion and pregnancy: women's health and social policy

Required readings for this session:

Rodman et al., pp. 62-80

Adler et al., pp. 1194-1204 (on reserve)

Russo & Zierk, pp. 269-280 (on reserve)

Week 13 (5/2): Can the abortion debate be won?

Required readings for this session:

Tribe, Chapter 10

Rodman et al., Chapter 9
Cohen, pp. 52-68 (on reserve)
Steffen, pp. 35-44 (on reserve)
Cohen & Prior (on reserve)

Week 14 (5/9): Final project review and consult

This class session is set aside as an opportunity to review the status of your final project, ask questions, get help or advice from the instructor and fellow students.

Week 15 (5/16): FINAL PROJECTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TONIGHT!!

Movie and discussion
(I'll bring the popcorn.)

MID-TERM PAPER (minimum 8-10 pages, double-spaced).

(1) Identify and describe your personal position on the question of abortion. Do not rely on rhetoric. Be specific. Identify the circumstances under which you believe abortion to be acceptable or unacceptable. Identify at least three reasons that support or motivate your personal position. Cite sources, experts, principles or ideals that support your position. Consider and explain how, or if, your position might be altered if one or more of these reasons or ideals were found to be wrong.

(2) Consider the limitations/weaknesses of your personal position on abortion. Identify circumstances under which you would make or support exception(s) to your position. What counter-arguments do you find most challenging to your position? Relate your position on abortion to at least one other social issue, and identify the implications for social policy. Explain how you think your position on abortion is consistent or inconsistent with your position on at least one other social issue.

(3) How does the national social/political debate on abortion represent, or fail to represent, your personal viewpoint or concerns? How would you (could you?) put your personal position on abortion in the form of national legislation?

FINAL PROJECT (instructor's advance approval is required).

A final project or paper is required. Video projects are acceptable. If you choose to write a paper, it should be no less than 10 pages (double-spaced) in length. You should begin thinking about this project as soon as the course begins, and you must provide the course instructor with a written description of the project before the approval deadline specified elsewhere in this syllabus.

Design and carry out a research project that gives you new exposure, information, or perspective on the issue of abortion. Try to select a topic that is not already explicitly covered as part of this course. Examples: research the status of abortion law in another country; design a project that allows you to research and relate the abortion issue to your own field of study or work; write and conduct your own abortion survey/questionnaire; design and conduct a series of interviews with activists or politicians. Be creative! Challenge yourself and dare to discover something new. You may use any resources at your disposal, including the internet. (Note that you must identify your information sources, including any literature, web sites, experts.)

RESERVE READINGS

Readings on reserve in the library are taken from the sources listed below. If reserve readings are unavailable when you need them, you may be able to locate the reading in the original book or journal at UMD or elsewhere:

Adler, NE, David, HP, Major, BN, Roth, SH, Russo, NF, Wyatt, GE (1992). Psychological factors in abortion: a review. *American Psychologist*, October 1992.

Annas (1), GJ. (1998). Partial-birth abortion, congress, and the constitution. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 339 (4).

Annas (2), GJ. (2001). Partial-birth abortion and the Supreme Court. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 344 (2).

Baehr, N. *Abortion Without Apology: A Radical History for the 1990s*. South End Press, 1990.

Claire, M. *The Abortion Dilemma: Personal Views on a Public Issue*. Plenum Press, 1995.

Cohen, C. How not to argue about abortion. In Goldstein, L. (Ed.), *The Female Body: Figures, Styles, Speculations*. University of Michigan Press, 1991.

Cohen, M. & Prior, K.S. (1998). Common ground on abortion clinic activism. Occasional Papers Series, Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflicts, Syracuse University. November 1998, No. 1.

Cozzarelli, C & Major, B. The impact of antiabortion activities on women seeking abortions. In: L.J. Beckman and S.M. Harvey (Eds.), *The New Civil War: The Psychology, Culture, and Politics of Abortion*. American Psychological Association, 1998.

Doerr, E & Prescott, JW (Eds.). *Abortion Rights and Fetal 'Personhood.'* Centerline Press, 1990.

Gans Epner, J.E., Jonas, H.S. & Secklinger, D.L. (1998). Special Communication: Late-term abortion. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 280 (8).

Ginsburg, FD. *Contested Lives: The Abortion Debate in an American Community*. University of California Press, 1989.

Henshaw, SK & Kost, K (1996). Abortion patients in 1994-1995: characteristics and contraceptive use. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 28 (4).

Hern, WM (1994). Life on the front lines. *Women's Health Issues*, 4 (1).

Hoshiko, S. *Our Choices: Women's Personal Decisions About Abortion*. The Hawthorn Press, 1993.

Joffe, C (2000). Medical abortion and the potential for new abortion providers: a cautionary tale. *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*, 55 (3) (supplement). Also at: http://www.jamwa.org/vol55/toc55_3.htm

Miller, PG. *The Worst of Times*. Harper Collins, 1993.

Morowitz, JH & Trefil, JS. *The Facts of Life: Science and the Abortion Controversy*. Oxford University Press, 1992.

MS. Magazine, May/June 1997.

New York Times Magazine, January 18, 1998.

Reagan, LJ. *When Abortion Was a Crime: Women, Medicine & Law in the U.S., 1867-1973*.
University of California Press, 1997.

Roleff, T.L. (Ed.) *Abortion: Opposing Viewpoints*. Greenhaven Press, 1997.

Russo, NF & Dabul, AJ (1997). The relationship of abortion to well-being: do race and religion make a difference? *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 28 (1).

Russo, NF, Horn, J & Schwartz, R (1992). U.S. abortion in context: selected characteristics and motivations of women seeking abortion. *Journal of Social Issues*, 48.

Russo, NV & Zierk, KL (1992). Abortion, childbearing, and women's well-being. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 23 (4).

Scheidler, JM. *Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion*. Tan Books and Publishers, 1993.

Steffen, L. *Abortion: A Reader*. The Pilgrim Press, 1996.

Tepe, V (1997). *Fetal pain: what we (don't) know and why we need to know it*. The Body Politic, March.

Syllabus was developed by Victoria Tepe PhD. For more information contact her at vtepe@comcast.net.