FEMINIST BIOETHICS

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This course will explore ways in which feminist theory might provide insight on contemporary issues in bioethics. Attendance and active participation is required; readings will be available as photocopies in my seminar shelf in the Philosophy Department’s lounge (209 New North). There will be three formal assignments for the course: a 5-6 page paper; a group research project to be presented in class; a final 7-10 page paper. Details of all assignments will be discussed in detail well in advance of their due dates. Office hours are liberally available by appointment.

INTRODUCTION

Jan. 12 Introduction
Jan. 19 (examples due for class discussion)

GENDER & THE POLITICS OF DISEASE

Jan. 24 Women & Clinical Research (check for announcement about jury duty!)
Herman, “What Doctors Don’t Know About Women”
Dresser, “Wanted: Single White Male for Medical Research”

Jan. 26 Hysteria & Mental Illness
Smith-Rosenberg, “The Hysterical Woman: Sex Roles & Role Conflict in 19th C America”

Jan. 31 Menstruation & Menopause
Emily Martin, “Medical Metaphors of Women’s Bodies: Menstruation & Menopause”

THE ETHIC OF CARE

Feb. 2 Russett, “The Machinery of the Body”
Feb. 7 Lloyd, “The Man of Reason”
Jagger, “Love’s Knowledge”
Feb. 9 Gilligan, “Moral Orientation and Moral Development”
CONFIGURING THE FEMALE BODY

Feb. 16  
*Cosmetic Surgery*
Morgan, “Women and the Knife: Cosmetic Surgery and the Colonization of Women’s Bodies”  
Davis, “Public Face/Private Suffering”
Feb. 21  “Dr. 90210”
Feb. 23  *Eating Disorders*
Chernin, “Confessions of an Eater”
Feb. 28  Bordo, “Anorexia Nervosa: Psychopathology as the Crystallization of Culture”
March 2  no reading
March 7  Spring Break
March 9  Spring Break
March 14  Research Group Presentations
March 16  Research Group Presentations
March 21  Research Group Presentations

SEXUALITY, REPRODUCTION, & PARENTHOOD

March 23  *Sexual Autonomy*
Schulhofer, “Unwanted Sex”
March 28  Georgetown’s Sexual Conduct Policy
March 30  *The Politics of Contraception*
readings tba
April 4  *Fetal Protection Policies*
Gallagher, “Collective Bad Faith”
Bertin, “Regulating Reproduction”
April 6  Class Cancelled
April 11  *Contract Gestation*
Pollit, “The Strange Case of Baby M”
April 13  Georgetown Easter Break
April 18  Taub, “Feminist Tensions: Concepts of Motherhood & Reproductive Choice”
April 20  *Motherhood & Fatherhood*
Shanley, “Father’s Rights, Mother’s Wrongs?”
April 25  Overall, “Father’s Rights & Frozen Embryos”
April 27  wrapping up -- *second papers due*