

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2009-2010

Philosophy 2710G (001): Reproductive Ethics
Winter 2010

Instructor: Professor Carolyn McLeod	Office Hours: M 1:30-2:30; W 3:30-4:30
E-mail: cmcleod2@uwo.ca	Class Times: M, W, F: 11:30-12:30
Phone: (519) 661-2111 ext. 85877	Class Location: Talbot College 204
Office Location: Stevenson Hall 3142	Course website: WebCT Owl

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Reproductive ethics is a sub-discipline of bioethics that deals with moral issues related to pregnancy, reproduction, and reproductive health care. Sample issues include abortion, reproductive rights, conscientious refusals by health care professionals to participate in abortions or in other reproductive practices, prenatal testing, *in vitro* fertilization, gamete (sperm or egg) donation or selling, contract pregnancy (or surrogacy), cloning, and midwifery. This course focuses specifically on *reproductive rights, abortion, conscientious refusals to provide emergency contraception, prenatal testing, gamete donation or selling, and contract pregnancy*. Particular attention will be paid to why each of these issues is controversial.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To develop students' ability to think critically and autonomously about issues in reproductive ethics;
- 2) To encourage understanding of the complexity of these issues;
- 3) To promote awareness of how these issues overlap and of the need to be consistent in our analyses of them.

REQUIRED TEXTS: online readings, available on the course website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) 6 short "reflection" papers, worth 20%
- 2) Class participation, worth 10%
- 3) One essay (about 8 pages), worth 30%
- 4) Final exam, worth 40%

Please note that regular attendance throughout the term is expected.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Students are required to submit an electronic copy, but not a hard copy, of each written assignment. These assignments also must be turned in to *turnitin.com*.

READING SCHEDULE

*All readings are available on our webCT site.

*All readings are required unless otherwise noted. Please come to every class prepared to discuss each of the readings assigned for the relevant week.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
Reproductive Rights			
Jan. 4/6/8	Introduction to Course & Reproductive Rights	Robertson , <i>Children of Choice</i> , chapters 1 and 2	
Jan. 11/13/15	Reproductive Rights	<p>Murray, “What are Families For? Getting to an Ethics of Reproductive Technology”</p> <p>Overall, “Reflections on Reproductive Rights in Canada”</p> <p>Recommended: <i>Raising Expectations: Recommendations of the Expert Panel on Infertility and Adoption</i>, Executive Summary</p>	Reflection paper (RP) 1
Right or Ability Not to Reproduce			
Jan. 18/20/22	Abortion	<p>Pope John Paul II on Abortion, Contraception, and Euthanasia</p> <p>Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”</p>	RP 2
Jan. 25/27/29	Abortion	Little , “Abortion, Intimacy, and the Duty to Gestate”	RP 3
Feb. 1/3	Conscientious Refusals to Provide Emergency Contraception (EC)	Cantor & Baum , “The Limits of Conscientious Objection—May Pharmacists Refuse to Fill Prescriptions for Emergency Contraception?”	RP 4

		Card , “Conscientious Objection and Emergency Contraception”	
Feb. 5	Writing Philosophy Essays	None	
Feb. 8/10/12	Conscientious Refusals to Provide EC	Fenton & Lomasky , “Dispensing with Liberty: Conscientious Refusal and the ‘Morning-After Pill’” Arras , “The Fragile Web of Responsibility: AIDS and the Duty to Treat”	RP 5
Feb. 15/17/19	Reading Week		
Right or Ability to Reproduce Selectively			
Feb. 22/24/26	Selection Against Disability	Kent , “Somewhere a Mockingbird” Parens & Asch , “The Disability Rights Critique of Prenatal Genetic Testing: Reflections and Recommendations”	RP 6
March 1/3/5	Sex Selection	Robertson , “Preconception Gender Selection” Seavilleklein & Sherwin , “The Myth of the Gendered Chromosome: Sex Selection and the Social Interest”	RP 7
Right or Ability to Reproduce with Assistance from Third Parties			
March 8/10*/12	Gamete Donation or Selling	Benatar , “The Unbearable Lightness of Bringing into Being” Velleman , “Family History”	RP 8 *Peer review of draft

			essay outlines March 10
March 15*/17/19	The Value of Biological Ties?	Haslanger , "Family, Ancestry and Self: What is the Moral Significance of Biological Ties?"	Essay due March 15
March 22/24/26	Contract Pregnancy	Anderson , "Is Women's Labor a Commodity?" Satz , "Markets in Women's Reproductive Labor"	RP 9 (on Anderson)
March 29/30 (Holiday April 2 nd)	Contract Pregnancy	Satz , continued	RP 10 (on Satz)
Global Reproductive Rights			
April 5/7/9	International Markets in Women's Reproductive Labour	Haworth , "Surrogate Mothers: Wombs for Rent" Pande , "Not an 'Angel,' Not a 'Whore': Surrogates as 'Dirty' Workers in India"	RP 11

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF READINGS

Anderson, A. "Is Women's Labor a Commodity?" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 19(1), 1990: 71-92.

Arras, J. "The Fragile Web of Responsibility: AIDS and the Duty to Treat," *Hastings Center Report*, April/May, 1988: 10-20.

Baylis, F. & **C. McLeod**. "The Stem Cell Debate Continues: The Buying and Selling of Eggs for Research," *Journal of Medical Ethics* 33(12), 2007: 726-31.

Benatar, D. "The Unbearable Lightness of Bringing into Being," *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 16(2), 1999: 173-80.

Cantor, J. & K. Baum. The limits of conscientious objection—May pharmacists refuse to fill prescriptions for emergency contraception? *New England journal of medicine* 351 (19), 2004: 2008-12.

Card, R. F. “Conscientious Objection and Emergency Contraception,” *American Journal of Bioethics* 7 (6), 2007: 8-14.

Expert Panel on Infertility and Adoption (ON). (2009) Raising Expectations: Recommendations of the Expert Panel on Infertility and Adoption.

Fenton, E. & L. Lomasky. “Dispensing with Liberty: Conscientious Refusal and the ‘Morning-After Pill,’” *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 30, 2005: 579-592.

Haslanger, S. Forthcoming. “Family, Ancestry and Self: What is the Moral Significance of Biological Ties?” *Adoption and Culture*.

Haworth, A. “Surrogate Mothers: Wombs for Rent,” *Marie Claire*. 2007.

Kent, D. “Somewhere a Mockingbird.” In *Prenatal Testing and Disability Rights*. In *Prenatal Testing and Disability Rights*. Ed. E. Parens & A. Asch. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2000. pp. 57-63.

Little, M. O. “Abortion, Intimacy, and the Duty to Gestate,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 2, 1999: 295-312.

Marquis, D. “Why Abortion is Immoral,” *The Journal of Philosophy* 86(4), 1989: 183-202.

Murray, T. “What are families for?” *Hastings Center Report* 32 (3), 2002: 41-45.

Overall, C. “Reflections on reproductive rights in Canada.” In her *Human Reproduction: Principles, Practices, Policies*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1993. pp. 19-36.

Pande, “Not an ‘Angel,’ Not a ‘Whore’: Surrogates as ‘Dirty’ Workers in India,” *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* 16(2), 2009: 141-173.

Parens, E. & A. Asch. “The Disability Rights Critique of Prenatal Genetic Testing: Reflections and Recommendations.” In *Prenatal Testing and Disability Rights* (see Kent). pp. 3-43.

Pope John Paul II on Abortion, Contraception, and Euthanasia, *Population and Development Review* 21(3), 1995: 689-696.

Robertson, J. A. *Children of Choice: Freedom and the New Reproductive Technologies*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994. Chapters 1 & 2.

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Satz, D. "Markets in Women's Reproductive Labor," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 21(2), 1992: 107-131.

Seavilleklein, V. & S. Sherwin. (2007) The myth of the gendered chromosome: Sex selection and the social interest, *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 16: 7-19.

Velleman, D. 2005. "Family History," *Philosophical Papers* 34(3): 357-378.