

Abortion and History Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction

Introductory video due.

Week 2 Pre- and Early Modern Ideas in the West

Short response #1 due

Day 1 Abortion and Contraception and the Church “Fathers”

Reading: *Didache*, 2

Athenagoras, “A Plea for the Christians,” 32-35.

Tertullian, “Apology,” 9, and “The Soul,” 25-27.

Augustine of Hippo, “On Marriage and Concupiscence,” excerpts:

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/aug-marr.asp>

Daniel Dombrowski, “St Augustine, Abortion, and *Libido crudelis*,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 49 (1988): 151-156.

Brind'Amour, Katherine, “St. Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274).” *Embryo Project Encyclopedia* (2007-11-11). ISSN: 1940-5030 <http://embryo.asu.edu/handle/10776/1733>.

Simonds, Simon Andrew. “Aquinas and Early Term Abortion.” *Linacre Quarterly* 61 (3) (1994), pages 1-

Roland Betancourt, “Abortion and Contraception in the Middle Ages,” *Scientific American*, December 11, 2020. Available online <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/abortion-and-contraception-in-the-middle-ages/>

Day 2 Common Law before the 20th Century

Guest lecture by Jim Masschaele, Professor of History, on medieval Common Law and abortion.

Reading: excerpts from medieval canon-law collections, with special reference to the Common Law texts used by Justice Samuel Alito in the SCOTUS decision *Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health*.

Week 3 Making Abortion a Crime

Short response #2 due

Day 1 Sex and Reproduction in 18th and 19th Cent. America

Reading: Cornelia Hughes Dayton, “Taking the Trade: Abortion and Gender Relations in an Eighteenth-Century New England Village,” *The William and Mary Quarterly*, [Vol. 48, No. 1 \(Jan., 1991\)](#), pp. 19-49 (31 pages)

Day 2 Criminalization

Reading: Excerpts from Janet Farrell Brodie, *Contraception and Abortion in Nineteenth-Century America*; Andrea Tone, *Devices and Desires: A History of Contraceptives in America* (2001), selections

Week 4 When Abortion Was a Crime

Short response #3 due

Day 1 Illegal Abortion before the 1950s

Reading: Rickie Solinger, *The Abortionist: A Woman Against the Law* (2019)

Johanna Schoen, *Choice&Coercion: Birth Control, Sterilization, and Abortion in the Twentieth Century*, chapter 3

Day 2 The Experience of Illegal Abortion

Reading: Patricia Miller, *The Worst of Times* (1993): 122-139.

Fessler, Ann. 2006. *The girls who went away: the hidden history of women who surrendered children for adoption in the decades before Roe v. Wade*. New York: Penguin Press, pp.1-13.

Week 5: Underground Abortion Networks

Short response # 4 due

Day 1: Watch Documentary: The Janes [HBO, 2022]

Day 2: Underground Abortion Services: Jane and the Clergy Consultation Service

Reading: Interview with members of CCS

Carole Joffe, *Doctors of conscience: the struggle to provide abortion before and after Roe v. Wade*, (1995): Chapters 2-4.

Week 6 The Move to Legalization

Day 1: Griswold v. Connecticut and Roe v. Wade

Reading: Summary of Griswold v Connecticut: <https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/579/griswold-v-connecticut>"Roe v. Wade. The 1973 Supreme Court Decision on State Abortion Laws," excerpts from the majority and dissenting opinions, from Robert M. Baird and Stuart E. Rosenbaum, *The Ethics of Abortion. Pro-Life vs. Pro-choice.*, 3rd edition (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2001), 63-72.

Day 2: The Problem with Roe: The Right to Privacy vs. Equal Rights

Listen to Susan Struck v. Secretary of Defense -- [On the Media: Instead of Roe.](#)

Reading: Mutcherson and Rebouche, *Feminist Judgements Roe v. Wade*

Johanna Schoen, *Abortion After Roe*, chapter 1

Week 7 Medicine at the Edges of Life: grappling with the fetus

Paper #1 due.

Day 1 The Antiabortion Movement before Roe v. Wade

Reading: Daniel K. Williams, *Defenders of the Unborn, The Pro-Life Movement before Roe v Wade*, "A Note on Terminology" (xi-xiv), "Introduction" (1-9), Chapter 1 (10-38), Chapter 3 (58-87), Chapter 6 (133-155), Chapter 7 (156-178).
Humanae Vitae—excerpts, 1968.

Day 2 Fetal Politics

Reading: Johanna Schoen, *Abortion after Roe*, chapter 2

Kenneth Edelin, *Broken Justice: A Story of Race, Sex, and Revenge in a Boston Courtroom* [selected chapters]

Week 8 Institutionalization

Short response #5 due

Day 1 Institutionalization: the formation of NAF and the rise of the antiabortion movement

Reading: Johanna Schoen, *Abortion After Roe*, chapter 3

Cynthia Gorney, *Articles of Faith: A Frontline History of the Abortion Wars*, selected pages

Day 2 Webster and Casey

Reading: Webster v Reproductive Health Services (1989),” <https://embryo.asu.edu/pages/webster-v-reproductive-health-services-1989>

The summary of Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v Casey:

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1991/91-744>

Week 9: Moral Frameworks

Short response # 6 due.

Day 1 Why Women Have Abortions

Reading: selections of Diane Foster Greene, *The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having – or Being Denied – an Abortion* [2020]

Boonstra, Heather D., Rachel Benson Gold, Cory L. Richards, and Lawrence B. Finer, "Abortion in Women's Lives," New York, NY: Guttmacher Institute, (2006)

Day 2: Why Clinicians Provide Abortions

Reading: Willie Parker, *Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice*, chapters 2 and 9

Lisa Harris, "Second Trimester Abortion Provision: Breaking the Silence and Changing the Discourse," *Reproductive Health Matters* 16, no. 31 (2008): 74-81

Week 10: The Escalation of Abortion Politics

Short response #7 due.

Day 1 Watch: After Tiller

Day 2 The Partial Birth Abortion Debate

Reading: Johanna Schoen, *Abortion After Roe*, chapter 6

Watch: "60 Minutes" segment on "partial birth abortion."

Week 11: More Escalation

Short response # 8 due.

Day 1 Watch: *The Last Abortion Clinic*, PBS

Day 2 Harassment, Violence, and Trap Laws

Reading: Johanna Schoen, *Abortion After Roe*, chapter 5

"Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) Laws,

<https://www.guttmacher.org/evidence-you-can-use/targeted-regulation-abortion-providers-trap-laws#>

Susan Wicklund, *This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor*, (2007) chapter 5.

Week 12 Dobbs and the aftermath

Short response # 9 due.

Day 1 The Impact of Dobbs

Reading: Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health

Day 2 Dobbs – The Dissent

Reading: Dissent in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health

Week 13 The Shift to Reproductive Justice

Short response #10 due.

Day 1 Reproductive Justice

Reading: ACRJ. 2005. "A new vision for advancing our movement for reproductive health, reproductive rights, and reproductive justice." Oakland, CA: Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice (ACRJ).

Arons, Jessica. 2006. "More Than A Choice: A Progressive Vision for Reproductive Health & Rights." Washington, DC: Center for American Progress.

Day 2 Guest Lecture Kim Mutcherson, Co-Dean and Professor of Law, Rutgers Law School

Week 14 Where Are We Now?

Day 1 Guest Lecture by Grace Howard, Assistant Professor of Justice Studies, San José State University

Day 2 Recent Developments

Week 14: Summary and wrap-up.