

**COURSE CODE: *SOCI 448***

**COURSE TITLE: CULTURE AND REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH**

**SESSION#: TEN – TITLE: NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES**

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**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

College of Education

**School of Continuing and Distance Education**

2017/2018 – 2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

# Course Information

*Provide the following information:*

**Course Code:**

**SOCI 448**

**Course Title:**

**CULTURE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

**Course Credit**

**3 Credits**

**Session Number &  
Session Title:**

**Session Ten: New Reproductive Technologies**

**Semester/Year:**

**Second Semester, 2018/2019**

# Course Information (contd.)

*Provide the following information:*

**Lecture Period(s)**

**Insert Lecture Period(s):** *(Online how many online interactions per week)*

**Prerequisites**

**Insert Course Prerequisites:** *(if applicable)*

**Teaching Assistant**

**Insert Teaching Assistant's Information:** *(where applicable, provide name and contact information)*



# Course Instructor's Contact

*Provide the following information:*

**Course Instructor(s)  
Name**

**Dr Fidelia Ohemeng**

**Office Location**

**Insert Office Number:**

**Office Hours**

**Insert Office Hours: (Tuesday: 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm)**

**Phone**

**Phone Number:**

**E-mail**

**Your Email: [fohemeng@ug.edu.gh](mailto:fohemeng@ug.edu.gh)**

# Session Overview

- This session discusses the emergence of new reproductive technologies and their impact on reproductive health in general. It specifically examines assisted reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization and surrogacy. It further explores the intersection of race, class, legal and religious beliefs in the uptake of new reproductive technologies.

# Session Outline

The key topics to be covered in the session are as follows:

- Topic One—Identify the different types of new reproductive technologies
- Topic Two—identify the types of assisted reproductive technologies
- Topic Three—Explore the intersection between gender, race, legal and religious beliefs and assisted reproductive technologies

# Session Learning Goals

- Describe the new reproductive technologies and their functions
- Describe the types of assisted reproductive technologies
- Explore the how assisted reproductive technologies raises issues of gender, race, religious beliefs, and legal challenges

# Session Learning Objectives

- At the end of this session students should be able to:
  - Objective One: Identify the types of new reproductive technologies
  - Objective Two: identify and describe the types of assisted reproductive technologies
  - Objective Three: explain the inter-section of gender, race, and ethnicity and assisted reproductive technologies
  - Objective Four: explain the socio-cultural factors that influence the uptake of assisted reproductive technologies



# Session Learning Outcomes

- Identify the types of new reproductive technologies
- Describe some types of assisted reproductive technologies
- Explain how gender, race, ethnicity and class intersect with assisted reproductive technologies
- Explore how socio-cultural factors such as religious beliefs, legal challenges enhance or act as barriers to the uptake of assisted reproductive technologies.
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# Session Activities and Assignments

This week, complete the following tasks:

- **Log onto the UG Sakai LMS course site:**
  - <http://sakai.ug.edu.gh/XXXXXXXXXX>
- **Read:** Inhorn, M. C. 2005. Religion and Reproductive Technologies. *Anthropology News*.
  - Gooldin, S. 2013. 'Emotional Rights', Moral Reasoning, and Jewish-Arab Alliances in the Regulation of in-vitro-fertilization in Israel: theorizing the Unexpected Consequences of Assisted Reproductive Technologies. *Social Sciences & Medicine* 83: 90-98.
- **Watch** the Videos for Session 10– Issues and Challenges of Adolescents Reproductive health
- **Review** Lecture Slides: Session 10 – Issues and Challenges of Adolescents Reproductive Health
- **Visit the Chat Room** and **discuss** the **Forum question** for Session 10
- **Complete** the **Individual Assignment** for Session 10

# Creating Blended Assignment Instructions

Recommended eight (8) elements to include in written assignment instructions distributed to students online:

1. **Assignment title** (exactly the same as title used in syllabus and other course documents)
2. **Learning objective(s)** to which the assignment relates
3. **Assignment due date** (if receiving electronic submissions, include time/time zone also)
4. **Submission details** (electronic submissions only? required file format? via email? via assignment upload?)
5. **Scoring criteria/rubric**
6. **Level of group participation** (individual assignments, group or team projects, and entire class projects).
7. **Mechanical details** (number of words/pages, preferred style guide for citations, number/type of citations, etc.)
8. **Any supporting resources** necessary for assignment completion

# Reading List

## Required Text

- Inhorn, M. C. 2005. Religion and Reproductive Technologies. *Anthropology News*.
- Gooldin, S. 2013. 'Emotional Rights', Moral Reasoning, and Jewish-Arab Alliances in the Regulation of in-vitro-fertilization in Israel: theorizing the Unexpected Consequences of Assisted Reproductive Technologies. *Social Sciences & Medicine* 83: 90-98.

Topic One

# **DEFINITION AND TYPES OF NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES**



# Definition of Infertility

- Reproductive technologies are innovations to designed to treat diseases or abnormalities associated with reproductive health
- These include contraceptives (designed to prevent pregnancy), assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) designed to treat infertility), sex determination technology, and technology for checking for abnormalities in foetuses among others.



Topic One

# **ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES**



# Assisted Reproductive Technologies

- Assisted reproductive technologies is the use of technologies to treat infertility. ARTs have provided solutions for hundreds of people who have had problem conceiving naturally. Examples of ARTs are:
- In-vitro fertilization (IVF)
- Intra-cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)
- intrauterine insemination (IUI)
- Surrogacy



# In vitro fertilization (IVF)

- Probably the most popular of all ARTs, IVF was developed by British physiologist Robert G. Edwards in the 1970s. It is the process of fertilizing an egg outside the womb (in a test tube) and placing the fertilized egg back into the womb
- It is normally used to treat infertility in women who are having problems getting pregnant probably due to defective fallopian tubes
- The first “test tube baby” Louise Brown was born in 1978. since then, tens of thousands of children have been born through this method



# Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection

- Intra cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) uses the IVF procedure. A single sperm is injected directly into an egg.
- Developed in Belgium about two decades ago, ICSI is mostly used to treat male infertility. It is used where there is a problem with the quality of the sperm; where the sperm has difficulty penetrating the egg. In most cases the partner's or a donor's sperm may be used
- It can also be used when the male suffers from a low sperm count



# Surrogacy

- Surrogacy is the process where an individual carries a pregnancy for another person
- It is used to treat both male and female infertility, where:
  - a patient is unable to carry pregnancy to term
  - a patient has ovaries but no uterus;
  - a patient has no ovaries and is unable to carry a pregnancy to term
- Increasingly, same sex couples are using this surrogacy to they can have their own children
- Some single people are also employing this method (often with a donated sperm or egg) to conceive



# Sample Questions

- What is in vitro fertilisation?

Topic Two

# **THE INTERSECTION OF GENDER, RACE/ETHNICITY AND CLASS**



# Gender issues in surrogacy

- Surrogacy is very common in some countries. In India is known as baby outsourcing, womb renting.
- Some gender researchers have raised issues where women's bodies have become a commodity. They are of the view that some women are forced by poverty to rent their wombs to people for money.
- Many of the women in India who become surrogate mothers are poor. Rich people travel from rich countries to poor countries for surrogates
- Now a vital industry in India, surrogates costs less than half of what pertains in the UK and US. In India surrogacy cost around \$8000 whiles in the UK and the US it costs over \$18,000.



# Inter-sectionality of Race and Class

- Inter-sectionality simply means that a concept will take on a different dimension when other variables such as gender, race and class are introduced.
- So for instance, surrogacy is not only about women carrying a pregnancy for another person, but it raises questions about who the surrogate mother is (in terms of race (black, Asian, etc.)), and who the client also is (Caucasian)
- As already explained, surrogate mothers are mostly poor and vulnerable women, who take on the risk of pregnancy, sometimes for a small fee.
- So the question is would a white woman, agree to be a surrogate for a black or Asian woman (issue of race)
- Or would a rich woman agree to be surrogate for a poor woman (issue of class)



# Re-configuration of notions of motherhood

- Surrogacy also reconfigures the traditional notions of motherhood. There are two types of mothers:
  - Genetic mother (biological/birth),
  - Social mother: a woman who is not the birth or biological mother but takes on the mothering role; such provision of food, clothing, shelter, emotional support, counseling, etc.
- In the case of surrogacy, the birth/surrogate mother is neither considered the biological or social or the social mother. She is not the biological mother because the child she bears does not carry her genetic material.
- In the West, social motherhood is largely accorded the same status as biological motherhood. Surrogacy is a much more complex one because while in the former, social mother is the doing the biological mother a favor often after the fact (that is when the baby has been born), in the latter, the surrogate mother is part biological/part social mother, doing the biological birth mother a favor before the fact (baby is born).





# Surrogacy and Legal Challenges

- Surrogacy can also raise legal issues about who the biological mother should be. In some states in the US the surrogate mother would have to go to court to legally hand over the child to the clients. There are some instances where the surrogate mother refused to hand over the child.
- There have also been instances where the clients have refused to accept the child born because they had a disability. In such an instance, who becomes the legal guardian or the birth parents of the child?

# Sample Question

Interview five people in your community and ask them about how they perceive surrogacy in Ghana.

Topic Three

# **RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES**



# NRT and Religion

Religious beliefs to a very large extent influence the perception, and uptake of new reproductive technologies. The various religions, especially the world religions (Christianity, Islam and Judaism) have different views about reproductive technologies.



# Judaism

- The Jewish nation is greatly influenced by the commandment “to be fruitful and multiply”. They interpret this command to mean that they have to reproduce by any means necessary.
- Also, having a lot of children also ensures that non-Jews don't outnumber Jews in Israel. This is due to the innate fear of being annihilated because of their experience with the holocaust.
- As such, IVF is almost completely state subsidized in Israel. No other country in the world subsidizes the cost of examination and treatment of infertility like Israel.

# Islam

- Different Islamic sects have different views about assisted reproductive technologies especially about surrogacy and use of donated sperms and eggs.
- In the Sunni Muslim world, IVF between couples is allowed. However, egg and sperm donation is not allowed. Surrogacy is also prohibited.
- On the other hand, in the Shia/Shi'ite Muslim world, specifically in Iran and Lebanon, surrogacy is allowed but to a certain extent. In this instance, another woman can carry a child for a couple, but the sperms must belong to the husband. This is because, surrogacy raises issues of inheritance, polygyny and polyandry. If the sperm belongs to the man, the child can claim the inheritance from the father. But if the sperm belongs to another man, the child cannot claim inheritance from the couple who commissioned the pregnancy and technically, the woman would be deemed to have engaged in polyandry.



# Christianity

- the views of Christianity about the new reproductive technology is not uniform.
- However, Catholics opposed to all forms of reproductive technologies.
- For instance, the catholic church is against the use of modern contraceptives. They only approve of abstinence.



# Sample Question

- Find out the views of traditional Ghanaian religion about the assisted reproductive technologies.

