

San Jose State University
WGSS 114 (#27113) Spring 2025
MW 1:30 – 2:45pm DMH231
IG #sjsuwgss

Dr. Susana L. Gallardo
susana.gallardo@sjsu.edu
Drop-in Hours: Mon 3-5 pm
DMH 238A / 408.644.8081

The Politics of Mothering & Reproduction

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the politics of mothering and reproduction in terms of reproductive justice. While political struggles around reproduction have typically focused on cis women's bodies, we are all affected by reproductive struggles. As Aren Z. Aizura notes, feminists, feminists of color, queer, trans, and disability movements have all contributed to understanding reproductive capacities not as natural or biological instincts but as socially and technologically constructed, commodified, and always contested (Aren Z. Aizura).

We will draw on an intersectional and transnational feminist perspective that analyzes issues of race, gender, class, sexuality, ability and nation among others as they interact in our daily lives. As an upper division seminar focused on WGSS majors and minors, regular attendance is required to substantially participate in discussion and occasional films. We assume basic understanding of intersectional and transnational feminisms and basic writing skills.

Recommended Texts:

Tanya S. Bakhru & Krista L. Benson, *Reproductive Justice, Adoption and Foster Care* (Routledge 2024).

There is one 21u0 (out)-2 Td 0 e in a notebook or folder that you can bring to class for discussion.

CLASS DAYS: Class regularly meets on MW 1:30 – 2:45. Please note that during weeks three and eight, two Wednesday classes (2/12 & 3/19) are cancelled so that students may attend two required WGSS events, the Trans* Teach and the WGSS Major Celebration.

Assignments and Evaluation

20% Seven (of 8) weekly brain dumps, due every Tuesday night

20% Participation – including team discussion and short final reflection paper

20% Midterm essay

40% R

Research paper (10% biblio, 10%

WGSS114 is an elective course designed for the WGSS major and/or minor. Our WGSS Program Learning Outcomes state that upon graduation, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies students will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class, and nation social and institutional contexts.
2. Identify and describe major theories and political movements central to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies,

Week 10 -4/7 Inclusive Birth
Read: Marsden, "Born in the

