Gender and Family Justice  
GOVT 86.27 / WGST Affiliated Course  
Dartmouth College  

Professor Julie Rose  
Fall 2014  
10A (T/Th 10:00am-11:50am)

Information  
Office: Silsby 202  
Email: julie.l.rose@dartmouth.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00pm, and by appointment.  
If you’re coming during regular office hours, please still make an appointment on Canvas.  
Classroom: Choate House Seminar Room  
Prereqs.: There are no prerequisites. The course is designed for students both with and without any background in political theory, philosophy, or gender studies. Open to first-years.  
WGST: Affiliated course. Counts toward WGST major and minor.

Course Description  
The family is a social and political institution profoundly shaped by the law. This course examines the family as a site of justice subject to normative evaluation, and asks how the state ought to regulate the family and how citizens ought to act within it. We will consider the ethics of marriage, work-life balance and the gendered division of labor, procreation, children’s rights, and parent’s rights. Throughout, the focus of our theoretical inquires will be the implications for both public policy and individual practical ethics.

Questions we will consider include:

Marriage  
- Are there legitimate reasons to prohibit same-sex marriage -- or polygamy?  
- Should marriage be a function of the state, or a private contract like any other?

Gender Equality at Home and at Work  
- Is a gendered division of household labor compatible with gender equality?  
- Is work-life balance the responsibility of individuals or institutions?  
- Is the gender wage gap unobjectionable if it results from women’s choices?

Procreation  
- Is there a human right to procreate? Are one-child policies morally permissible?  
- Given facts of environmental degradation and human suffering, is it morally wrong to reproduce?  
- Should we encourage or discourage genetic selection and “designer babies”?  
- Is commercial surrogacy morally unobjectionable?
Children’s Rights
• What rights, if any, do children have?
• Do children have a right to know their biological relations?
• Who should bear the costs of raising children – the parents, society, or the child?

Parent’s Rights
• Do parents have rights to determine their children’s moral and religious educations?
• Should the state require potential parents to obtain licenses?
• What, if anything, do grown children owe their parents?

Readings
All readings, with the exception of one required book, will be posted on Canvas.

The amount of reading will be around 80-120 pages per week. The readings are limited to this reasonable amount so that you can do them all carefully.

The required book, available for purchase at the Dartmouth bookstore, is:

Course Requirements
There are four course requirements:

- Class participation: 20% of final grade
- Four short assignments: 20% of final grade
- Two presentations: 20% of final grade
- Two 5-7 page papers: 40% of final grade (20% each)

*Participation*: Your participation in class discussions is extremely important because this is a small class consisting mostly of discussion. I will do my part to provide interesting readings and to stimulate and guide discussion, but whether this class is engaging and enjoyable for everyone depends largely on the extent and quality of your participation.

Your participation grade has three components:

1. *Punctual attendance.* If you have a valid reason for not attending, you must contact me before class begins for it to count as an excused absence.
2. *Quality contributions.* Participate actively in class. Do not hesitate to speak up. If you’re bashful about participating, come see me to talk about it. That said, do not speak simply for the sake of doing so. If your comments indicate that you haven’t done the reading or that you aren’t taking the discussion seriously, that will hurt rather than help your participation grade.
3. *Listening and responding.* Meaningful discussions require listening to your peers and engaging with their contributions. The best way to participate is to facilitate clear exchanges that advance the conversation.
Short assignments: There will be four short (at most one page) writing assignments throughout the quarter. It is very important that the short assignments are turned in on time because we will go over them in the subsequent class. Without a valid excuse, a late short assignment will be penalized a full letter grade for every 12 hours past deadline. This will be strictly enforced.

Presentations: Each student will give two presentations over the course of the quarter. The presentations should be 10-15 minutes, briefly summarize the readings, and pose and develop several questions for discussion. The day’s presenter should take a greater role in leading discussion for that class.

Papers: There will be two 5-7 page papers, due on October 27 and November 24. Prompts for both will be circulated in advance. Without a valid excuse, late papers will be penalized a third of a grade for every 12 hours late. This will be strictly enforced. The final must be turned in on time for the submission of final grades.

Class Policies

Honor Policy: Students are required to abide by the Academic Honor Principle (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja/honor). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you’re ever in doubt about what the honor code requires, or what citations are required or how much collaborating or paraphrasing is permissible, don’t hesitate to ask me. Otherwise, err on the side of caution.

X-Hours: I’ll use the X-hours occasionally throughout the semester in place of our usual class time. Unless something unexpected arises, I will schedule all x-hours significantly in advance.

Email: I will reply promptly whenever possible, but I am often traveling or otherwise away from email, so I won’t always reply immediately. I will reply to emails within 48 hours. If you haven’t heard back from me by then, send your message again.

Laptops and electronics in class: You may use your laptop or tablet during class to take notes or access the readings. Do not use either, however, for email or non-class related things. If you use the internet to look something up, do so with a public spirit; share what you find. Phones are strictly prohibited during class. We will take a five minute break in the middle of class; you can check your phone and email then.

Median Grade: The Government Department policy is that the median grade for a seminar should be an A-.

Learning disabilities: Students with disabilities who may need disability-related academic adjustments and services are encouraged to see me privately as early as possible in the term. Students requiring disability-related academic adjustments and services must consult the Student Accessibility Services office (205 Collis Student Center, 646-9900, Student.Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu). Once SAS has authorized services, students must show the originally signed SAS Services and Consent Form and/or a letter on SAS letterhead to their professor. As a first step, if students have questions about whether they
qualify to receive academic adjustments and services, they should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential.

Religious observances: Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

Course Schedule

1.A Course Overview

Tuesday, September 16

Marriage

1.B Same-Sex Marriage

Thursday, September 18


2.A Alternatives to Marriage

Tuesday, September 23


First short assignment distributed in class. Due: Wednesday, September 24 at 6pm.

Gender Equality at Home and at Work

2.B The Division of Household Labor

Thursday, September 25


3.A “Work-Life Balance”

Tuesday, September 30

• Joan Tronto, “The ‘Nanny’ Question in Feminism,” *Hypatia* 17 (2002).

*Optional:*
• Slaughter talk at Dartmouth, April 2013: http://libcat.dartmouth.edu/search~S1/r
• Slaughter TED talk: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tH5iEf9oxaI
• Sandberg TED talk: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18uDuty1Da4

3.B The Gender Wage Gap

Thursday, October 2


Second short assignment distributed in class. Due: Monday, October 6 at noon.

Procreation

4.A The Right to Procreate

Tuesday, October 7


4.B The Permissibility of Procreation

Thursday, October 9


5.A Abortion

Tuesday, October 14


First 5-7 page paper assignment distributed in class. Due: Monday, October 27 at 5pm.

5.B Genetic Selection and Designer Babies

Thursday, October 16


Third short assignment distributed in class. Due: Monday, October 20 at noon.

6.A Surrogacy

Tuesday, October 21

Children’s Rights

6.B The Moral Status of Children Tuesday, October 28

7A. Children’s Rights (X-Hour) Wednesday, October 29
• United Nations “Convention on the Rights of the Child”

First 5-7 page paper due on Wednesday, October 29 at 5pm.

7.B The Significance of Biological Relations Thursday, October 30

Parents’ Rights

8.A The Costs of Children Tuesday, November 4

Fourth short assignment distributed in class. Due: Monday, November 10 at noon.

8.B Parental Rights and Responsibilities Thursday, November 6

Second 5-7 page paper distributed in class. Due: Monday, November 24 at 5pm.
9.B Passing on Beliefs


10.A Obligations of Children to Parents


*Second 5-7 page paper due on Monday, November 24 at 5pm.*