

**THE POLITICS OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**  
**Professor Barbara Palmer**

**CASES TO READ BEFORE CLASS AND BRING WITH YOU TO CLASS**

**All of these are available through the Women and Politics website. Find the course listing, and you will find these readings.**

*Roe v. Wade (1973)*

*Stenberg v. Carhart (2000)*

*Hill v. Colorado (2000)* (skim – get what you can out of this)

*Erickson v. Bartell Drug Company (2001)*

*This schedule is subject to change to accommodate our guest speakers.*

**Saturday, September 21**

9:00 – 9:15: Welcome and Introductions

9:15 – 10:15: Film & Discussion: *If These Walls Could Talk, 1974*

10:15 – 11:15: Film & Discussion: *If these Walls Could Talk, 1996*

(short break)

11:15 – 12:15: Film & Discussion: *If these Walls Could Talk, 2000*

12:15 - 12:45: Lunch

12:45 - 2:45: Privacy, Abortion, and the Supreme Court

Discussion of landmark Supreme Court decisions in the area of privacy and abortion and the current state of the law with Professor Palmer.

3:00 - 4:30: Supreme Court Simulation Preparation

4:30 - 5:00: Wrap up, Announcements, and Evaluations

**Sunday, September 22**

9:00 - 10:45: Supreme Court simulation

10:45 – - 11:00: Break

The rest of the day will be a series of speakers and panels on the following topics:

11:00 – 12:00: The Conservative Side: the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, the Global Gag Rule, and International Funding of Family Planning

12:00 - 12:30: Lunch

12:30 - 1:45: Clinic Violence

1:45 - 3:00: The Newest Developments in Contraception and Insurance Coverage  
*Staff from the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association*

3:00 - 3:15: Break

3:15 - 4:30: The Liberal Side: the Rights of Pregnant Women

4:30 - 5:00: Wrap-up and evaluations.

## CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

### 1. Supreme Court Simulation

In-class Participation (10%)

Your Decision (20%): How would you decide our hypothetical case? Write up a 3 page Supreme Court Opinion. *DUE: WED, SEPT 25, BY 5:00 PM IN THE DEPT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICE.*

2. **Policy Memo** (70%): Pick a reproductive rights issue and a policy maker, and write a 6 - 8 page paper recommending some kind of action. You do not have to pick an issue we talked about in class. In fact, given that this is a weekend course, and there are many topics we did not cover, and you are strongly encouraged to pick something we did not cover, like surrogacy, the use of fetal tissue in medical research, the selection of judges, in vitro fertilization, etc...

a. Once you have picked an issue you are interested in, pick a "real person" to write your memo to. It can be a member of Congress, a member of the Administration, or someone in an interest group. (Examples: President Bush; Kim Gandy, the President of NOW; AG John Ashcroft; Serrin Foster, the President of Feminists for Life; etc.)

b. In your introduction, state a specific policy or action you think needs to take place (i.e. pass a law, sign a law, have a protest, get funding for....).

c. Develop an argument stating the reasons why this policy or action is needed.

d. Develop an argument against why this policy or action is needed. What are the weaknesses in your position? Who might some of your biggest opponents be?

NOTE: All papers must have a reference list at the end of your paper. Proper citations must be used throughout your paper (I don't care which format you use). All papers must have a title page with your name and the name of the policy maker you selected. *DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 BY 5:00 PM IN THE DEPT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICE.*