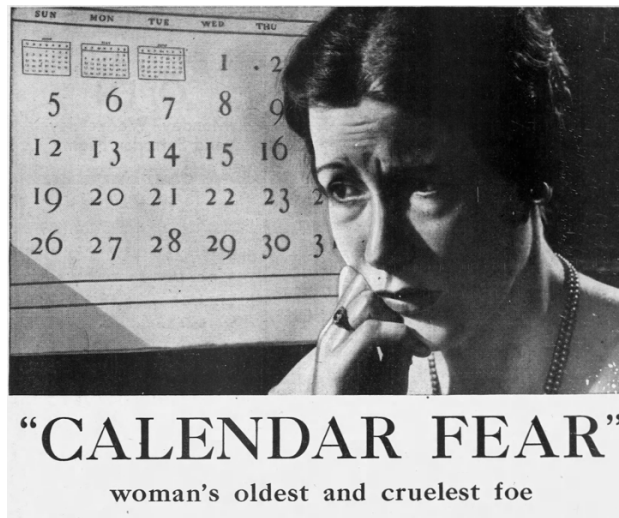


LIST II, MT, JS

HIU34571. Reproductive Politics in the 20th Century United States (Gillian Frank)



Lysol “Marital Hygiene” advertisement. 1932.

Who should have access to abortion, adoption, and birth control? Who should be allowed to procreate and parent? And who should control reproduction? Over the course of the semester, we will study how questions such as these have underpinned significant political and cultural struggles in the 20th century United States

Using a variety of primary source and secondary source readings, podcasts, and documentaries, students will learn how the state, medical experts, religious authorities, activists, and everyday people have answered these questions; how these answers have changed significantly over time; and how the questions and answers both reveal shifting power dynamics and identities in US politics and culture.

The course moves chronologically and touches on a number of themes to give students a multifaceted view of reproductive politics. Major topics include: contraception and abortion; pronatalism; childbirth; adoption; heterosexual and queer family formations; eugenics and sterilization; parenthood and child rearing; alternative healthcare movements; social welfare and much more.

Through these topics we will analyze the cultural, religious, and political mores that shaped Americans' experiences with reproduction. In doing so, we will trace the complex, shifting, and contradictory ways that reproduction was politicized, gendered, classed, raced, and sexualized.