*Substance Abuse During Pregnancy*

Course Information

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*This is an honors course for people interested in learning about this topic relating to their interests, majors, or future endeavors. This class will go over substance abuse during pregnancy. I targeted these groups because it provides different viewpoints and allows people to become knowledgeable when a person becomes pregnant, in the medical field, or is just interested in the topic.*

Course Description

*In this class, Substance Abuse During Pregnancy, will be arguing for the best course of action regarding the unborn child during a dangerous pregnancy and a mother over the counter drugs, illegal substances, and alcohol.*

Course Schedule

**Unit 1: *What drugs are dangerous during a pregnancy?***

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| **BIG Question:** What substances are harmful to an unborn child during pregnancy? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** There are specific substances dangerous when taken often during a pregnancy.  |
| **Key Words:** antihistamine, Tylenol, ACOG, AAP, FDA |
| **Link to Reading:** [Drugs in a Pregnancy](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y0_DEulN5kOJ5zWSz3Tm1GRc-yJit8rD/view?usp=sharing) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** This reading covers the types of drugs or other substances for unborn children. The article will go over any substance, whether illegal or not, that is not recommended for a pregnant woman to imbibe. It goes over potential dangers, not regarding substance abuse, but what the FDA or the CDC recommends for pregnant women. The information provided from this article allows students to understand what professionals know now about these substances and what most people today take precaution of. They give information for things like Tylenol, flu shots, or illegal substances and their potential effects.  |

**Unit 2: *The effects of substance abuse on newborns***

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| **BIG Question:** What happens to unborn children and newborns when a mother is a substance abuser during pregnancy? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** Newborns go through a tremendous ordeal when dealing with substance abuse. The consequences are brought down on a child during a pregnancy and birth.  |
| **Key Words:** treatment groups, fetal alcohol syndrome, opiates, dependency, premature birth |
| **Link to Reading:** [Newborns affected](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGOlNmzaNOs) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** In the video, in a local hospital, doctors and other professionals go over the dangers a newborn could go through when the mother is an addict. They name several disorders, diseases, birth defects, and premature births as consequences of substance abuse. Some examples are premature birth, fetal alcohol syndrome, and congenital heart defects. Throughout the video, they show mothers and their children as examples from substance abuse during pregnancy. Towards the end of the video, employees of this hospital name treatment programs and protocols they follow to ensure a healthy birth of a child. In addition, it also shows what hospitals do to their best of their ability for the patient and their unborn child. |

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| **BIG Question:** Substance abuse does not just affect the unborn child, but the mother as well, so what are the risks of getting treatment or continuing their addiction? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** The argument of this article is that the mother is also affected by the habit, not just the child during a pregnancy.  |
| **Key Words:** mortality, CPS, stigma, inject-drug users, withdrawal symptoms |
| **Link to Reading:** [The mother](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aFW88dBF7pXxBCSY8j8RBzsmrU4ZRZ-9/view?usp=sharing) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** In this article, it tells the story of a pregnant woman who was addicted to heroin. In her story, it goes over what she went through as a parent. She tried to get clean while not hurting the child, the problems of keeping her child pre and post-partum, and the struggle with her addiction. There are many sides to a addict mother. In this article, it shows what a mother accomplished and went through to have a happy life with her child and to keep clean from her heroin addiction. Many mothers go through the same things. Some are prosecuted and put in jail, their children are taken away, or they suffer through withdrawal to keep them. |

**Unit 3: *The harmful effects on the mother***

**Unit 4: Fetal Rights**

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| **BIG Question:** What is more important: the rights of the child or the mother? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** The case of substance abuse involving the rights of a child and mother are very controversial in solving for what is their best interest of each.  |
| **Key Words:** The Federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004, Johnson v. State, Roe v. Wade, The “born alive” rule, Cocaine Mom Act |
| **Link to Reading:** [fetal rights](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WDYqVrysV9hysJXibH7E4FxlDd6HGopB/view?usp=sharing) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** This article goes over the history regarding fetal rights. The legislation acted, or court case rulings evolve throughout the years with fetal rights and maternal rights. Over a few decades, court rulings have been increasingly on the side of fetal rights, but there are some that move for maternal rights because of body autonomy. The subject in the reading is very controversial because it is difficult to decide in the best interest of both mother and child especially when it comes to substance abuse. It also names programs that try to protect unborn children from mothers who are unwilling to get treatment or cannot get clean.  |

**Unit 5: *Maternal Rights***

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| **BIG Question:** How do you decide what is best for a mother and child during a substance abuse pregnancy? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** Since the 1980s, pregnant mothers increasingly have been prosecuted for substance abuse in court or through legislation of the government.  |
| **Key Words:** Planned Parenthood, Reproductive Rights, Informed Consent, Privacy Rights, Moral Panic |
| **Link to Reading:** [maternal rights](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wxEc79uI8cNPEvV_yKgpdgrgvOhtG9te/view?usp=sharing) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** During the 1980s, the pressing matter of substance abuse during pregnancy arose to be discussed. Today, it is still a controversial subject, however it is more on the side of the fetus than the mother. The article goes in depth on the history of laws in the US and important court case decisions regarding this issue. On the other hand, unlike other articles, it involves policy for the rights of the mother. Regarding the mother, it discusses specific policy protecting their rights when prosecuted or even in a hospital to prevent being charged. This is to prevent these women from jail time or losing their child due to differing circumstances.  |

**Unit 6: Government Intervention**

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| **BIG Question:** Does the government have the right to interfere in the lives of pregnant mothers and their unborn child? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** The argument of this article is about how government interferes with expectant mothers and drugs than some other important aspects for newborns and other children.  |
| **Key Words:** fetal abuse, unborn child, *Robinson v. California*, *Whitner v. State of South Carolina*, mandate |
| **Link to Reading:** [Government Intervention](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CQudMZPgicoSkRM_6ZVW9wP7wMCJsBed/view?usp=sharing) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** This article goes over government intervention in how women use drugs or other substances during pregnancy. It goes over the legislation of how the government tries to pass bills to prevent or restrict substance abuse. Several organizations like the AMA and ANA because it would discourage prenatal care for women which could be potentially dangerous to the child. It not only is federal, but states have tried to pass legislation regarding this issue. In the article, it makes the case that addiction isn’t just dangerous to child, but other societal or economical aspects as well. The article also discusses the intervention government has done so far and the impacts it has brought on mother and child. This article will help students understand the severity of addiction and other drugs have on not just the child, but the mother as well. The recent and past legislation will also help students understand how the government and state governments react to an issue like this.  |

**Unit 7: *Right to treatment groups or bodily autonomy?***

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| **BIG Question:** Should mothers be required to treatment if addicted to a substance or should they be left to their own devices?  |
| **Argument of the Unit:** This provides a model that allows rights to flow for both sides in this situation for treatment |
| **Key Words:** patient autonomy, ethics, DDS, neglect, norms |
| **Link to Reading:** [Treatment](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11FmIhS9_iNMyUN_91Znau4NqEaoCOqUc/view?usp=sharing) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** In the reading, professionals have created a clinical model to treat cases where autonomy doesn’t always line up with government intervention or with ethics. In this model, specifically for substance abuse, it tries to line up the interests for both the fetus and the mother as a unit to best keep the fetus/newborn healthy along with the mother. This is for the willing patient, if the mother is unwilling, politics interfere. This allows treatment on all accounts; however, it is best if both are compliant because the decision to get clean or treatment shows will and decision-making.  |