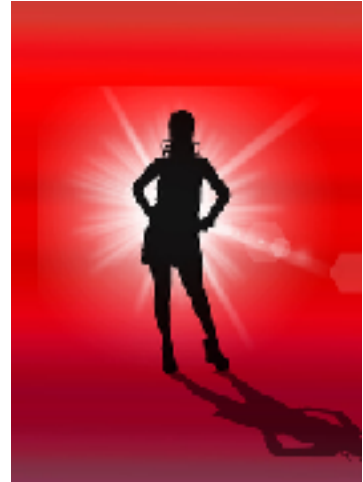


Evolution of my Knowledge on Reproductive Justice

Jessica LaPlaga WGST 395 Section 50

This semester I am currently enrolled in a Women and Gender Studies course at Longwood University titled, "Reproductive Justice." I took this course because it is an honors course, fulfills a requirement for my major, and it was the most interesting out of all the other choices. However, coming into the class, I didn't realize how little knowledge I had of the topic and how much I was going to learn in such a short period of time.



Before starting the class...

- I did not fully understand what the term Reproductive Justice meant
- I wasn't aware of the history of Reproductive Justice and how it has evolved over time
- I did not realize how many factors go into the term Reproductive Justice
- I did not realize how much of an issue women still have today with accessing reproductive healthcare
- I wasn't aware of all of the factors that lead to obstructed healthcare for women

Addons since my last post:

- I never connected issues that I see in my everyday life to Reproductive Justice
- I did not realize how many different types of people these issues relate to, for example, trans men
- I didn't realize how bad the social stigma against many types of women such as LGBTQ and non-white Americans still is today
- I didn't have a strong opinion on the topic of abortion

After starting the class...

- I have developed a better understanding of the purpose of Reproductive Justice
- I am more knowledgeable about the history of Reproductive Justice and the problems that still exist today
- I have gained a greater passion for supporting the Reproductive Justice movement

- I am more aware of the influential leaders of Reproductive Justice and those who came up with the term
- I know about a lot of the different ways women's healthcare is obstructed such as low income, lack of access to resources, and race issues.
- I can list the three principles of Reproductive Justice and relate these principles to the readings and discussions that we have in class
- I find myself relating the class content to events that are happening in the real world and throughout my everyday life

Addons since my last post:

- I have a better understanding of terms related to sexuality and gender (terms such as cisgender, nonbinary, trans, etc)
- I am more aware of contraceptive options that I hadn't heard of before such as LARCs
- I've realized that there are a lot more people studying RJ than I thought and I realized this when we had a guest speaker talk about Native women and contraception
- I have developed a strong pro-choice viewpoint on abortion and continue to be an activist for it
- I relate Reproductive Justice to a lot of things that I see in the news and media

Gaining Understanding through the Assigned Readings, Discussions, and Assignments...

Since my last post, we have received several interesting readings/assignments that have sparked my interest and expanded my knowledge on Reproductive Justice. The assignment that stuck out to me the most was the podcast titled, "Accidental Gay Marriage." This podcast details the relationship of Tristin and Biff as they try to get pregnant as a gay couple. Tristin is a trans male and Biff is a gay man. This podcast talks about miscarriage and the reproduction process for a trans male. I had never thought about a trans male pregnancy before which made this very interesting to me. I did not realize how many obstacles and hoops they would have to jump through to make this happen such as:

- Discrimination
- Coming off of hormones to get pregnant
- Miscarriage
- Lack of knowledge from doctors
- Mental health struggles
- Relationship obstacles

A few big realizations I had from this podcast:



- Trans men are still ovulating while on testosterone
- One in four pregnant individuals have a miscarriage
- Doctors do not have much knowledge about trans pregnancies
- Trans men who become pregnant fear for their lives everyday as they face discrimination and hate from the public
- Miscarriages take a large toll on a person's mental health

Word count including only new information: 398

Total word count: 695