

Political Science 119A: Gender and Public Policy, Spring 2007

Lecturer: Karen Shelby (kshelby@ucsd.edu)

Reproductive Rights: Historical Background

- Alan Guttmacher Institute, Lessons From Before *Roe*: Will Past Be Prologue? *Issues In Brief* 2003, #5
 1. What does the author say the likely consequences of the repeal of *Roe* would be?
 2. On what grounds does she draw this conclusion?
 3. What was the legal status of abortion in the years leading up to *Roe*?
 4. Describe the process of obtaining a “therapeutic abortion”.

Reproductive Rights: Cases and Consequences

- *Roe v. Wade* (excerpted in Weisberg, *Applications of Feminist Legal Theory to Women’s Lives*, p. 953-961)
 1. How does Judge Blackmun introduce the decision historically, morally, and philosophically?
 2. What does the trimester framework entail?

Reproductive Rights: Past and Future Challenges

- Brodie, Janet Farrell “Mifepristone in the Context of American Abortion History” *Women & Politics* v.24, 3 (2002) p. 101-119
 1. Who had abortions during the Great Depression?
 2. What methods did women use for “bringing on the period” or for terminating a pregnancy?
 3. What did “quickenings” mark?
 4. Describe each of the four anti-abortion campaigns.
 5. What do they share in common?
 6. What contrast does the author present between European attitudes and policies concerning abortion and American attitudes and policies?
 7. What did proponents hope RU486 would do?
 8. What does underground use of medical abortifacients in places where abortion is illegal suggest?
 9. What does it mean to say that “Abortion has been a socially constructed problem in America” (116)?