

[Academics] Ryoko Michinobu (Part-time Lecturer)

[Course aims]

Japan has long incorporated the power of modern medicine into the bearing and raising of children by examining a wide array of cases from countries around the world and the reproductive, childrearing, family, and medical environments in their respective societies. The development of assisted reproductive medicine is an opportunity to once again consider human life, family, and medicine. Our society includes people who elect not to have children. On the other hand, there are others who cannot bear children despite desiring to do so. Progress in assisted reproductive medicine has given hope to those who wish for children. However, the treatment is not always successful; there are psychological, physical, and economic costs, and even after a safe pregnancy and birth, there can be complicated issues in the parent-child relationship. The types of reproductive technologies that have developed around the world are diverse and depend on the ideas, family relationships, political systems, and scientific technologies that are present in their respective societies. In other words, this diversity is due to medicine being located within the human activities of culture. Assisted reproductive medicine shows us that humans are not only biological beings but also cultural beings, and in this course, we will investigate cultural diversity through cases in Japan and abroad.

[Course objectives]

The goals of this course are for the student to be able to:

1. Explain the social, cultural, and ethical issues surrounding assisted reproductive medicine.
2. Explain the cultural diversity in assisted reproductive medicine in a manner conforming to global affairs.
3. Theoretically demonstrate an anthropological understanding of assisted reproductive medicine.

[Course content]

Class	Theme	Content	Academics
1) 2	Social, cultural, and ethical issues surrounding assisted reproductive medicine		Ryoko Michinobu
3) 4	Cultural diversity in assisted reproductive medicine-Global affairs		Ryoko Michinobu
5) 6	Anthropological understanding of assisted reproductive medicine-Theory		Ryoko Michinobu
7) 8	Cultural theory of reproductive medicine-Review		Ryoko Michinobu

[Grading policies]

The overall evaluation consists of presentations on the reading (30%), discussion participation (30%), and reports (40%).

[Textbook]

Printed handouts.

[Reference book]

Printed handouts.

[Preparation for course]

Read printouts distributed ahead of time and participate in the class.