Course Description:
From the Nineteenth Century until the late Twentieth Century, pregnancy was considered a medical condition and/or something to hide from public view. Recently, however, pregnant bodies regularly cover the most popular magazines, whose reporters are constantly on the lookout for the telltale “baby bump.” And, a slate of films about pregnant girls and women have come out of Hollywood in the last couple of years (including Knocked-Up, The Waitress, Saved!, Juno, and Baby Mama). In this course, we will examine changing attitudes toward pregnancy and the pregnant body evidenced by these popular images. We will explore how pregnancy has gone from shameful and pathological to romantic and liberating. The focus on women’s bodies in popular culture is nothing new. But, the focus on, even obsession with, pregnant bodies calls for philosophical interpretation. To this end, we will discuss recent films about pregnant girls and women in light of philosophical and sociological analyses of changing attitudes toward pregnant bodies. This course will combine feminist film theory, French feminist philosophy, sociology and feminist historical approaches to the pregnant body. We will begin with a brief overview of the romantic comedy genre because most of the recent films are extension of this Hollywood genre, only now the pregnant body becomes a vehicle for romance and fulfillment. We will conclude with extended discussions of how new reproductive technologies are changing the way we think about pregnancy and having children.

Required Reading:
Tamar Jeffers McDonald, Romantic Comedies
Clare Hanson, A Cultural History of Pregnancy
Liza Mundy, Everything Conceivable
Additional Readings available through OAK online

Method of Evaluation:
1. You are required to watch films OUTSIDE of class as homework.
   a. There will be film screenings each week on Tuesday evenings in Buttrick 015.
   b. Also, the films are on reserve at the main library and you can view them there.
   c. Or you can purchase them to view at home.
2. All class participants are expected to come to class prepared to discuss both the films and the readings. Participation will count for 10% of the final grade.
3. Each participant will do one short in-class presentation (5-10 minutes maximum) on one of the readings for the course.
   a. This will count for 20% of the final grade.
4. Each participant will turn in a midterm and a final paper (5-6 pages each) on topics distributed in advance.
   a. The midterm will count for 30% of final course grade.
   b. The final essay will count for 40% of the final course grade.
Schedule 2010

1/13 Intro & Romantic Comedies Documentary

1/19 Film Screening, Buttrick 015: 6:30pm My Man Godfrey, & Bringing Up Baby
1/20 McDonald, Romantic Comedies, Intro, Chapters 1-2

1/26 Film Screening: 6:30pm Pillow Talk, & Lover Come Back
1/27 McDonald, Romantic Comedies, Chapter 2; McCallum “Mother Talk” (packet)

2/2 Film Screening: 6:30pm The Graduate, & Annie Hall
2/3 McDonald, Romantic Comedies, Chapter 4

2/9 Film Screening: 6:30pm You’ve Got Mail, & Down With Love
2/10 McDonald, Romantic Comedies 5 & Conclusion

2/16 Film Screening: 6:30pm Miracle at Morgan’s Creek, & People Will Talk
2/17 Hanson, A Cultural History of Pregnancy, Intro & Chapter 1-2

2/23 Film Screening: 6:30pm Rosemary’s Baby, & The Astronaut’s Wife
2/24 Hanson, A Cultural History of Pregnancy, Chapters 3-5. MIDTERMS DUE

3/2 Film Screening: 6:30pm Junior, & A Slightly Pregnant Man

3/10 Spring Break

3/16 Film Screening: 6:30pm Citizen Ruth! & The Waitress
3/17 Young, “Pregnant Embodiment” & Lundquist “Rejected Pregnancy” (in packet)

3/23 Film Screening: 6:30pm Knocked Up, & Fools Rush In
3/24 Mundy, Everything Conceivable, Prologue, chapters 1-5

3/30 Film Screening: 6:30pm Manny&Lo & Saved!
3/31 Mundy, Everything Conceivable, chapters 6-10

4/6 Film Screening: 6:30pm My Sister’s Keeper & Away We Go!
4/7 Mundy, Everything Conceivable, chapter 11-Afterward

4/13 Film Screening: 6:30pm Juno & Baby Mama
4/14 Guest Lecture on Sex and the City

4/21 Come to class with outlines of final paper and thesis statements for peer review.

4/23 Extra Office Hours: 2:00-3:00pm, Furman 103
4/26 Extra Office Hours: 3:30-4:30pm, Furman 103

4/28 Final papers due under my door by noon, Furman 103.