



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Kodas
Contemporary Motherhood/Fatherhood	

Annotation
<p>Seemingly the most natural functions – motherhood and fatherhood – they are also the most culturally and socially coded, therefore heavily legally and otherwise regulated activities known to humanity. When Beyoncé made a spectacle of her heavily pregnant body in 2017 Grammy Award ceremony, it was a statement. Likewise, during the same ceremony, Adelle could not hold it together and structured her entire acceptance speech on her pregnancy and early motherhood. What do those two contrasting and highly public displays of motherhood tell us about the ideological constructions and the actual experiences of motherhood? This module aims at unpacking some of the ways that motherhood/fatherhood are constructed and experienced in contemporary Western societies. In this module motherhood and to a smaller extent fatherhood will be analysed from the perspectives of cultural representation (popular culture, film, visual arts and literature); social science, and medicine. Such aspects of motherhood/fatherhood as traditional constructions of motherhood, infertility, homosexual motherhood/fatherhood, sperm donor experience, and mothering with disabilities will be studied.</p>

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
<p>Coordinator: Asist. Prof. Dr. Lina Šumskaitė</p> <p>Other(s): Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eglė Kačkutė–Hagan, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eglė Šumskienė, Dr. Ieva Bisigirskaitė</p>	<p>Vilnius University, Faculty of Philosophy, Institute of Sociology and Social work, Universiteto st. 9/1, Vilnius</p>

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First	General university studies

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
E-learning	Spring semester/ Autumn semester	English/Lithuanian

Requisites	
Co-requisites (if relevant): English sufficient knowledge (B1 level)	Additional requirements (if any): -

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	48	82

Purpose of the course unit (module)		
<p>Purpose of the course unit – to introduce students to the critical analysis of motherhood/fatherhood and to develop their competences and practical skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyse cultural, social, ethical and medical aspects of motherhood/fatherhood among different societies and communities; • solve problems in a creative manner working independently and in a team with professional and social responsibility, citizenship and in line with equal opportunities, human rights and ethical standards; • apply motherhood/fatherhood theories, results of research and good practices; • show organization skills and be capable of leadership while working in a team or independently. 		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will be able to apply core theories of motherhood to understand and critically interpret cultural representations and discourses of motherhood/fatherhood.	Problem-based lectures, theory analysis, studying representations of motherhood in a pop-culture, a film, a novel and a sculpture, group discussions during seminars and on e-learning platform	Interim evaluation (1) - essay (1500 words) on the chosen topic from a given list (end of March)
Students will be able to describe the social, demographic and legal context, in which the decisions for mothers and fathers are constructed and implemented. They will be able to assess critically the proposed or implemented policies in terms of human rights, equal opportunities, social justice, equality and other democratic values as well as identifying the offences related to these values.	Problem-based lectures, literature analysis, group discussions during seminars.	Interim evaluations (2)- test with 4 open ended questions (end of May).
Students will be able to understand the role of motherhood in social, cultural and biological reproduction of society and critically assess the role of intersecting power relations in those constructions. They will be introduced to the notion of maternal agency and resistance through an investigation into maternal and parental activism.	Problem-based lectures, literature analysis, film study, group discussions during seminars.	Interim evaluation (1) - essay (1500 words) on the chosen topic from a given list (end of March)

Based on theories and gained knowledge, students will be able to assess and discuss the effects of globalization on parenthood practices.	Problem-based lectures, literature study, group work.	Final exam (podcast) - preparation and presentation of group work on selected topic.
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Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments		
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	E-learning	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Assignments
1. Social, cultural and biological reproduction and maternal resistance 1.1. Good/bad motherhood; Intensive motherhood; Neoliberal mothers; 1.2. Motherhood and Nationalism; 1.3. Birth activism 1.4. Parental movements	8		4					12	18	Reading literature, discussion during seminars. Main literature: - Davis, N. Y. (9-35) - Hill, N. (p. 233-243) Film "We Need to Talk about Kevin" (2 hours)
2. Cultural representations of motherhood. 2.1 Popular Culture: The Myth of Motherhood and debunking it 2.2 Film: Regretting Motherhood 2.3. Mothers on Screen: Maternal Stereotypes 2.4 Literature: Motherhood as Institution and Experience.	8		4					12	22	Reading, watching a film, writing a short essay (1500 words) on a chosen topic from a given list Main literature: - A. Rich (p. 13-19, p.21-55; p.218-255) - L. Slimani novel (p.1-240) C. Rottenberg (p. 329-348) Film "The Lost Daughter" (2 hours)

3. Motherhood/fatherhood and human rights. 3.1. The diversity of family models. 3.2. Marriage: moral and legal aspects. 3.3. LGBT families: concepts, practices and legislation. Men's experiences as sperm donors.	4	2					6	12	Reading literature, discussion during seminars. Main literature: - E. Brake (p. 1-25) - Zadeh et al. (p. 1-17)
4. Men in families. 4.1. Masculinity/femininity in childcare responsibilities. New fatherhood. Mothering, fathering and parenting in the digital age. 4.2. Single parenthood. Teenage childbearing.	4	2					6	10	Reading literature, discussion during seminars. Main literature: - Finnbogadóttir et al. (p. 1-10) -J. B. Weber (p. 900-921)
5. Internal, institutional and interpersonal perspectives of mothering with disability. 5.1. Diagnosis-related and internalised obstacles. 5.2. Institutional barriers. 5.3. Stigma and negative perceptions of mothers with disabilities.	4	2					6	6	Reading literature, discussion during the seminars. Main literature: - L. A. Dotson, J. Stinson and L. Christian (p. 195-209).
6. Advocacy for the rights of mothers with disabilities. 6.1. Legal and institutional instruments. 6.2. Role of NGOs.	4	2					6	14	Reading literature, discussion during the seminars. Main literature: -United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (2006). - United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)
Total	32	16					48	82	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Final exam	60	June	Maximum 6 points. Students working in a group will be required to produce a 7-10 min. (up to 500MB) podcast that demonstrates: - ability to analyse the topic/problem of choice from the perspective of diverse relevant theoretical concepts (2 points); - ability to present the material clearly and in a structured manner (1 point); - ability to work effectively in a team, identify and solve problems collectively (1 point);

			- originality of ideas (2 points).
Interim evaluation 1 – essay (1500 words) on the chosen topic from a given list.	20	End of March	Essay 1500 words on the chosen topic of cultural representations of motherhood/fatherhood from a given list. Maximum 2 points. Evaluation criteria: - Understanding of the covered theoretical concepts of motherhood (1 point); - Ability to apply the theoretical concepts to analyse the text/phenomenon of choice studied in February and March (1 point);
Interim evaluation 2	20	End of May	Maximum 2 points. Four open-ended questions from subjects studied in April and May. Evaluation criteria: - Understanding the complexity of the subject. (1 point); - Critical evaluation of the text. (1 point).

The final note of 10 points consist of Final exam +2xInterim evaluation/10. Maximum point is 10.

Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
Required reading				
1. Yuval-Davis, N.	2003	“Nationalist Projects and Gender Relations”	Narodna umjetnost: hrvatski časopis za etnologiju i folkloristiku 40.1	https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/52677 Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
2. Hill, N.	2019	“Understanding Obstetric Violence as Violence against Mothers through the Lens of Matricentric Feminism”	Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement, 10 (1/2)	https://jarm.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/jarm/article/view/40566 Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
3. Ramsay, L.	2012	We Need To Talk About Kevin	Film	https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B009AYVNEY/ref=atv_dp_share_cu_r
4. O'Reilly, A.	2004	From Motherhood to Mothering : The Legacy of Adrienne Rich's of Woman Born, edited by Andrea O'Reilly, State		University of New York Press Will be uploaded in e-mokymai

5. Slimani, L.	2017	Novel <i>Lullaby</i> . United Kingdom.		Faber and Faber
6. Rottenberg, C.	2017	"Neoliberal Feminism and the Future of Human Capital"	S I G N S: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, vol. 42, no. 2: 329-348	University of Chicago Press https://doi.org/10.1086/688182 Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
7. Beggs Weber, J.	2012	Becoming Teen Fathers. Stories of Teen Pregnancy, Responsibility and Masculinity	Gender and Society, Vol. 26. No. 6: 900-921	SAGE. Sociologists for Women in Society
8. Lim, S. S.	2019	Transcendent Parenting: Raising Children in the Digital Age	Oxford University Press	DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780190088989.001.0001 Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
9. Zadeh, S. Imrie, S., Golombok, S.	2021	Stories of Sameness and Difference: The Views and Experiences of Children and Adolescents with a trans* Parent	Journal of GLBT Family Studies 17:1, 1-17	DOI: 10.1080/1550428X.2019.1683785 Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
10. Finnbogadóttir, H., Crang Svalenius, E., Persson, E. K.	2003	Expectant first-time fathers' experiences of pregnancy	<i>Midwifery</i> 19, 96-105	Elsevier Science Ltd DOI:10.1016/S0266-6138(03)00003-2/midw.2002.0347 Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
11. Dotson, L.A., Stinson, J. and Christian, L.	2003	People Tell Me I Can't Have Sex	Women & Therapy, Vol. 26 No. 3-4, pp.195-209.	DOI: 10.1300/J015v26n03_02
12. United Nations	2006	Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities		https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html
13. United Nations	1979	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)		https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx
Recommended reading				
1. Fábíán, K. and Korolczuk, E. (eds.)	2017	Introduction: Rebellious Parents: Parental Movements in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia.	Indiana University Press, pp. 1-30	Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
2. McRobbie, A.	2013	"Feminism, the family and the new 'mediated' maternalism"	New Formations 80.80, pp. 119-137.	Will be uploaded in e-mokymai

3. O'Reilly, A.	2019	"Matricentric feminism: A feminism for mothers."	The Routledge Companion to Motherhood, pp. 51-60.	Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
4. Heffernan, V. Wilgus, G.	2018	Introduction: Imagining Motherhood in the Twenty-First Century—Images, Representations, Constructions	Women: A Cultural Review, 29:1, 1-18, <i>The Logic of the Gift: Toward an ethic of generosity</i> , pp. 174-89	Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
5. Kristeva, J.	1985	"Stabat Mater"	Poetics Today, 1985, Vol. 6, No. 1/2, <i>The Female Body in Western Culture: Semiotic Perspectives</i> (1985), pp. 133-152	DOI 10.2307/1772126 Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
6. Douglas, S., Michaels, M.	2005	The Mommy Myth: The Idealization of Motherhood and How It Has Undermined Women		Simon & Shuster
7. Badinter, É.	2011	The conflict : how modern motherhood undermines the status of women	translated by Adriana Hunter	New York: Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt and Company, 208 p.
8. Rahilly, E.	2020	Trans-Affirmative Parenting Raising Kids Across the Gender Spectrum		New York University Press, 250 p. Library of Philosophy f.
9. Martinez F.	2017	Update on fertility preservation from the Barcelona International Society for Fertility Preservation-ESHRE-ASRM 2015 expert meeting: indications, results and future perspectives	Human Reproduction. 2017;32(9):1802-181	Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
10. F. Shenfield, G. Pennings, J. Cohen, P. Devroey, G. de Wert, B. Tarlatzis, ESHRE Task Force on Ethics and Law including.	2005	ESHRE Task Force on Ethics and Law 10: Surrogacy	Human Reproduction, Volume 20, Issue 10, October 2005, Pages 2705–2707	Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
11. Nieuwenhuis. R. Maldonado, L. C. eds.	2018	The triple bind of single-parent families. Resources, employment and policies to improve well-being	Policy Press, University of Bristol, The University of Chicago Press	Will be uploaded in e-mokymai

12. Baum, S. and Burns, J.	2007	Mothers with Learning Disabilities: Experiences and Meanings of Losing Custody of their Children	Tizard Learning Disability Review, Vol. 12 No. 3, pp.3-14.	Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
13. Boyer, K. and Spinney, J.	2016	Motherhood, mobility and materiality: Material entanglements, journey making and the process of 'becoming mother	Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, Vol. 34 No. 6, pp.1113-1131	Will be uploaded in e-mokymai
14. Frederick, A.	2017	Risky mothers and the Normalcy Project: Women with disabilities negotiate scientific motherhood	Gender & Society, Vol. 31 No. 1, pp.74-95.	DOI: 10.1177/0891243216683914
15. Mohr, S.	2018	Being a Sperm Donor: Masculinity, Sexuality and Biosociality in Denmark	Berghann: New York - Oxford. E-book	Full text available at VU library =5490712&query=%22Being+a+Sperm+Donor%3A+Masculinity%2C+Sexuality%2C+and+Biosociality+in+Denmark%22