Introduction

Scope of the course: This proseminar is designed as an introduction to nineteenth-century American social history. Within that broad topic, the emphasis is on recent works dealing with the daily lives and careers of non-elite whites in the Northeast. No previous reading in social history is assumed, so some earlier innovative works, such as Rothman's *Discovery of the Asylum*, are included, along with recent books like Dublin's *Women at Work* and Johnson's *Shopkeeper's Millennium*. Students who have read some of these works may broaden their reading from the supplementary list.

Methodological emphasis: Although this is not a course in methodology, there will be continual attention to methodological problems encountered in studying ordinary people in the past. Current knowledge about American social history is so rudimentary and so precarious that methodological problems are central. No previous knowledge of statistics is required or expected, and most of the statistical techniques used in the quantitative studies assigned are elementary.

Assignments: In addition to reading the assigned works and contributing to the general discussion, each student will prepare three papers. One of these papers will report on work done and insights gained during an independent reading period in the middle of the semester.

Paperback books to purchase:

- Alan Dawley, *Class and Community*
- Thomas Dublin, *Women at Work*
- Paul Johnson, *A Shopkeeper's Millennium*
- Joseph Kett, *Rites of Passage*
- Lawrence Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness*
- Leon Litwack, * Been in the Storm So Long*
- David Rothman, *The Discovery of the Asylum*
- Kathryn Kish Sklar, *Catharine Beecher: A Study in American Domesticity*

Two books assigned as required reading are available only in hard-bound editions. Copies will be placed on reserve, so purchase is optional:

- Kathleen Conzen, *Immigrant Milwaukee*
- Mary Ryan, *Cradle of the Middle Class*
WEEK 1  
August 30

Introduction to the Course

WEEK 2  
September 7

Introduction, continued

A. What is social history?

Read:
- James Henretta, "Social History as Lived and Written," American Historical Review 84 (December, 1979), 1293-1333.

B. Eighteenth-Century Background

Read:

UNIT ONE: SOCIAL STRUCTURE, SOCIAL CHANGE, SOCIAL GROUPS

WEEK 3  
September 14

Industrialization and the Male Worker

Read:
- Alan Dawley, Class and Community: The Industrial Revolution in Lynn (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1976, pb.).

WEEK 4  
September 21

Industrialization and the Female Worker

Read:
WEEK 5
September 28 - Immigration
Read:

WEEK 6
October 5 - Emancipation
Read:

WEEK 7
October 12 - Emancipation, continued
Read:

UNIT TWO: THE FAMILY AND SOCIALIZATION

WEEK 8
October 19 - Domesticity
Read:

WEEK 9
October 26 - Adolescence
Read:
UNIT THREE: INDEPENDENT PROJECTS ON 19-CENTURY SOCIAL HISTORY

There will be individual conferences with me during Week 10, a social gathering at my home during Week 11, and double seminar sessions during Week 12 to report on independent reading projects.

UNIT FOUR: REFORM AND INSTITUTIONS

WEEK 13
November 23

Religion and Class Formation

Read:


WEEK 14
November 30

Religion and Class Formation, continued

Read:


WEEK 15
December 7

Institutions for Deviants

Read: