

University of Wisconsin

Department of History

His 140: HISTORY OF THE FAMILY IN THE US

Fall 1987, Tues-Thurs 1-2:15, Hum. 1101

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BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

Regular attendance; completion of 2 short written assignments; satisfactory work on six-week, mid-term, and final exams. In addition to lectures, there will be a weekly discussion section conducted by a teaching assistant, at times to be scheduled.

BOOKS REQUIRED:

Jim Watts and Allen Davis, eds., Generations

Mary Jo Bane, Here To Stay

Barbara Ehrenreich, The Hearts of Men

Carol Stack, All Our Kin

John Faragher, Women and Men on the Overland Trail

A xeroxed anthology of articles, available at a local copy shop, to be announced.

All these books are available on reserve at Helen C. White Library and most are stocked in several bookstores.

BOOKS ON RESERVE: (These books have been ordered for purchase but since only a part of each has been assigned, you may prefer to use them on reserve at Helen C. White Library.)

Linda Gordon, Woman's Body, Woman's Right: A Social History of Birth Control in America

One of several novels: Harriet Arnow, The Dollmaker, Anzia Yezierska, Breadgivers, Mario Puzo, The Fortunate Pilgrim, Alex Haley, Roots.

WRITTEN WORK REQUIRED:

--two short-answer exams, one at 6 weeks and another approximately at mid-semester
--two short (3-4 page) papers required
--a final take-home exam

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE

(PLEASE NOTE: Writing assignments are listed here to give you a sense of what they will be like and to remind you when they are due. They will be fully explained each time.)

Sept. 3. Introduction.

Sept. 8. What is a Family?

Reading due: Watts and Davis, Introduction
Demos and Hareven articles in xeroxed reader.

UNIT I. THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY: FAMILY AS COMMUNITY, Sept. 10-17.

Sept. 10. The Family Economy: Free and Slave

Reading due: Watts and Davis, 23-36
Faragher, chapters 2 and 6.
Genovese excerpt in xeroxed reader.

Sept. 15. The Families of Our Ancestors: Parents and Children.

Reading due: Watts and Davis, pp. 9-22, 39-46
Frederick Douglass, excerpt in xeroxed reader

Sept. 17. The Families of Our Ancestors: Men and Women.

Reading due: Gordon, *Woman's Body, Woman's Right*, chapter 2;
chapter 1 optional.
Faragher, chapter 3-5.
White, chapter in xeroxed reader.

UNIT II. THE FAMILY AS "REFUGE:" INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY.

Sept. 22. Wage Labor and the Families of Working People

Reading due: Early, Dudden and Tentler articles in xeroxed reader

Sept. 24. No class.

Sept. 29. ASSIGNMENT #1 due, topics to be distributed.

Sept. 29. Immigration.

Reading due: Elizabeth Ewen, chapter in xeroxed reader
Watts and Davis, pp. 53-102 (all of Part Three)
"The Pashkas Eat Breakfast," in xeroxed reader
Start to read the novel of your choice and plan to
finish it by Nov. 12.

Oct. 1-6. The "Proper" Victorian Middle-Class Family: True
Womanhood, True Manhood, and Sentimentalism.

Reading due: Welter, "Cult of True Womanhood," in xeroxed reader
Smith-Rosenberg, "Female World of Love and Ritual"
and Davy Crocket articles in xeroxed reader
Gordon, chapter 5

Oct. 8. Six week exam, covering all reading and lecture due
through Oct. 6.

UNIT III. FAMILY AS ENCOUNTER GROUP: THE 20TH CENTURY

Oct. 8-13. The "sexual revolution" of 1910-1930: birth control,
sexual permissiveness, automobiles, and cosmetics.

Reading due: Gordon, chapters 9 and 10.
Watts and Davis, pp. 121-133, 140-150, 160-62.

Oct. 15. The Great Depression of the 1930s: unemployment,
migration, and family adaptation.

Reading due: Watts and Davis, Part Five.
Story of the Raparka family, in xeroxed reader.
Start to read Carol Stack, All Our Kin and
finish it by Dec. 8

Oct. 20. The Impact of World War II on the family.

Reading due: Gordon, chapter 12.
Watts and Davis, Part Six.

Oct. 22. 1945-60. McCarthyism, Feminine Mystique, and the Family

Reading due: Ehrenreich, The Hearts of Men, chapters 3-5
Excerpts on the feminine mystique in xeroxed reader

UNIT IV. SOME PARTICULAR TOPICS.

Oct. 27-29. Childhood and Aging.

Reading due: Bane, chapters 1 and 3.
In xeroxed reader, excerpts by Fischer, McLoughlin,
Brooks and Simonsen
Mrs. Pashka and the Truant Officer, in reader.

Nov. 3-5. Housing and Housework.

Reading due: Wright excerpt in xeroxed reader
Clark, History of the Kitchen, xerox, to be
available at a later date

Nov. 5: Mid-term exam.

Nov. 10. Female-Headed Households.

Reading due: Bane, chapters 2 and 4.
Garcia and Bernard articles in xeroxed reader

Nov. 12-17. Family Problems and Expert Intervention.

Reading due: Gordon, "Family Violence, Feminism and Social
Control" in xeroxed reader
Review "Mrs. Pashka and the Truant Officer,"
in xeroxed reader.

Nov. 19. ASSIGNMENT #2 due. The topics, to be announced, will be
based on the general reading and the novel you have chosen.

UNIT V. CONTEMPORARY FAMILY POLITICS.

Nov. 19-24. 1960-80: Rebellion Against the Family? The social movements of the 1960s and 1970s: civil rights, students, women's and gay liberation.

Reading due: Watts, pp. 243-254, 282-287, 292-303.
Ehrenreich, chapters 7-9
Barbara Easton, in xeroxed reader.

Dec. 1-3. The "Pro-Family" Movement of the 1980s.

Reading due: Ehrenreich, chapters 10 and 11.
Watts, pp. 325-345.
Phyllis Schlafly, "What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women?", in xeroxed reader
Whitehead, "Killing the Family," in xeroxed reader

Dec. 8-10. Current Family Policy Controversies.

Reading due: Bane, chapters 5-end.
Schorr and Moen, "The Single Parent and Public Policy", and Blehar, "Families and Public Policy," in xeroxed reader.