

University of Wisconsin

Department of History

His 140: HISTORY OF THE FAMILY IN THE US

Fall 1988, Tues-Thurs 11-12:15, Hum. 1131

Professor Linda Gordon
Humanities 4105
tel. 263-1777

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

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

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

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

All these books EXCEPT THE XEROXED READER AND THE NOVELS are available on reserve at Helen C. White Library and most are stocked in several bookstores.

WRITTEN WORK REQUIRED:

- two short-answer, multiple-choice exams, one at 6 weeks and another approximately at mid-semester
- two short (3-4 page) papers
- 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. 6. Introduction.

Sept. 8. What is a Family?

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

UNIT I. THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY: FAMILY AS COMMUNITY

Sept. 13. The Family Economy: Free and Slave

Reading due: Watts and Davis, 23-36
Faragher, chapters 2 and 6.
"The Shaping of the Afro-American Family," in
xeroxed reader
Dudden, "Hired Girls," 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. 20. 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.

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

Sept. 22-27. Wage Labor and the Families of Working People

Reading due: Hareven; Early; Dudden, "Domestics" and "Changing Patterns of Service;" and Tentler, in xeroxed reader

Sept. 27. ASSIGNMENT #1 due, topics to be distributed.

Sept. 29-Oct. 4. 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. 6. Six week exam, covering all reading and lecture due through Oct. 6.

Oct. 11. 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," in xeroxed reader
Smith-Rosenberg, Davy Crockett article, optional, in xeroxed reader
Gordon, chapter 5

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

Oct. 13-18. 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. 20. 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. 25. 1945-60. McCarthyism, Feminine Mystique, and the Family

Reading due: Ehrenreich, The Hearts of Men, chapters 3-5
The Feminine Mystique, in xeroxed reader

UNIT IV. SOME PARTICULAR TOPICS.

Oct. 27-Nov. 1. Childhood and Aging.

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

Nov. 3-8. Housing and Housework.

Reading due: Wright and Clark excerpts in xeroxed reader

Nov. 10: Mid-term exam.

Nov. 15. Female-Headed Households.

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

Nov. 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. 22. 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. 22-29. 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
Steinem, Hobson, and Babcox, in xeroxed reader

Dec. 1. 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. 6-8. 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.