

His 140: History of Family in the US, fall 1992

Tues-Thurs 9:30-10:45 1121 Humanities

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4105 Humanities, 263-1777

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5265 Humanities, 263-1868

This is an introductory survey of family life in the US. Approximately half the course is devoted to a chronological overview of major changes in families over the last four centuries. The second half focuses on particular topics, such as childhood; the conditions of the elderly; dating and courtship; sex and reproduction; husband-wife relations; female-headed households; "alternative families;" and current family-related controversies. The goals of the course are to provide a summary of how families have changed and, equally important, to illuminate some contemporary political and social issues regarding family life.

**BASIC REQUIREMENTS:**

Regular attendance; reading assignments completed by due dates; completion of 2 short written assignments; satisfactory work on six-week, mid-term, and final exams. In addition to lectures, there are required weekly discussion sections conducted by a teaching assistant.

**BOOKS REQUIRED:**

Mintz and Kellogg, *Domestic Revolutions*  
Barbara Ehrenreich, *The Hearts of Men*  
Carol Stack, *All Our Kin*  
John Faragher, *Women and Men on the Overland Trail*  
A required xeroxed collection of articles will be available at Bob's Copy Shop.

**BOOKS RECOMMENDED:**

Mary Jo Bane, *Here To Stay*  
Linda Gordon, *Woman's Body, Woman's Right: A Social History of Birth Control in America*

We will be reading only parts of these books; if you don't want to or can't buy them you can use copies on reserve.

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

#### APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE

(Writing assignments are listed here to remind you when they are due. They will be fully explained each time. The reading is not evenly distributed; think ahead so as not to fall behind during the weeks with heavy reading.)

Sept. 3. Description and explanation of course and requirements.

Sept. 8. Introduction. What is a Family?

Reading due: Faragher, chapters 2 and 6.  
Mintz and Kellogg, chapters I-II.

#### UNIT I. THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY (AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY): FAMILY AS COMMUNITY

Sept. 10. The Family Economy: Free and Slave

Reading due: Genovese, "Husbands and Fathers ... Slavery," in xerox.  
Mintz and Kellogg, chapter IV.

Sept. 15-17. The Families of Our Ancestors: Parents and Children.

Reading due: Faye Dudden, "Hired Girls," in xerox reader.  
Zelizer, "From Useful to Useless," in xerox reader.  
Letter from Susan and Ersey, in xerox reader.

Sept. 22-24. The Families of Our Ancestors: Men and Women.

Reading due: Gordon, Woman's Body, Woman's Right, chapters 1-2,  
on reserve or purchase.  
Faragher, chapter 3-5.  
Marriage contract of Mygatt and Whiting, in xerox.

#### UNIT II. THE MODERN FAMILY (INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY): FAMILY AS REFUGE

Sept. 29-Oct. 1. The "Proper" Victorian Middle-Class Family: True Womanhood, True Manhood, and Sentimentalism.

Reading due: Barbara Welter, "Cult of True Womanhood," in xerox.  
Smith-Rosenberg, "Female World of Love and Ritual," in xerox.  
Mintz and Kellogg, chapter III.  
Jessie Bernard, "The Good-Provider Role," xerox.  
Rotundo, "Body and Soul: Changing Ideals of ... Manhood," xerox.

Highly Recommended:

Smith-Rosenberg, "Davey Crocket as Trickster," in Smith-Rosenberg,  
Disorderly Conduct, on reserve.

Oct. 1. ASSIGNMENT #1 due, a 3-5 page paper on topics to be distributed well in advance.

Oct. 6-13. Wage Labor and the Families of Working People

Reading due: Mintz and Kellogg, chapter V.  
Tentler, "Working-Class Daughter," in xerox.

Oct. 8. Six-week exam, covering all reading through Oct. 8.

Oct. 15-20. Immigration.

Reading due: Elizabeth Ewen, "House and Home," in xerox reader.  
"The Pashkas Eat Breakfast," in xerox reader.  
John Bodnar, "Families Enter America," in xerox reader.  
Safia Haddad, "Syrians in Chicago," in xerox reader.

### UNIT III. THE CONTEMPORARY OR "POSTMODERN" FAMILY: FAMILY AS ENCOUNTER GROUP

Oct. 22-27. The "sexual revolution" of 1910-1930: birth control, sexual permissiveness, automobiles, and cosmetics.

Reading due: Gordon, chapters 9 and 10.  
Mintz and Kellogg, chapter VI.

Oct. 29. The Great Depression of the 1930s: unemployment, migration, and family adaptation.

Reading due: Mintz and Kellogg, chapter VII.  
Story of the Raparka family, in xerox reader.  
Start to read Carol Stack, All Our Kin and finish it by Nov. 24.

Nov. 3. The Impact of World War II on the family.

Reading due: Gordon, chapter 12.  
Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, "A Family Disrupted," in xerox.  
Mintz and Kellogg, chapter VIII.

Nov. 5. 1945-60. McCarthyism, Feminine Mystique, and the Family

Reading due: Ehrenreich, The Hearts of Men, chapters 3-5.  
The Feminine Mystique, in xerox reader.  
Mintz and Kellogg, chapter IX.

### UNIT IV. SOME PARTICULAR TOPICS.

Nov. 10-12. Childhood and Aging.

Reading due: Chudacoff, "Blurred Age Distinctions," in xerox.  
"Breaking the Will," by Francis Wayland, in xerox reader.  
Sara Brooks and Thordis Simonsen, "You May Plow Here," in xerox.  
"Mrs. Pashka and the Truant Officer," in xerox.

Nov. 17: Mid-term exam. Covers all reading through Nov. 17.

Nov. 19. Murphy Brown v. Dan Quayle: Female-Headed Households.

Reading due: Bane, chapters 1-4.

Linda Gordon, "Out of Wedlock" and "Teenage Pregnancy," in xerox.

Nov. 24. Family Problems, Expert Intervention, and Welfare.

Reading due: Gordon, "Family Violence, Feminism and Social Control," xerox.

Review "Mrs. Pashka and the Truant Officer"

Finish Carol Stack, All Our Kin.

Nov. 24. ASSIGNMENT #2 due.

Nov. 26. No class.

#### UNIT V. HILARY CLINTON V. MARILYN QUAYLE: CONTEMPORARY FAMILY POLITICS

Dec. 1-3. 1960-80: Rebellion Against the Family? The social movements of the 1960s and 1970s: civil rights, students, women's and gay liberation.

Reading due: Ehrenreich, chapters 7-9

Gordon, chapter 14.

Deborah Babcox, "The Liberation of Children," in xerox.

Mintz and Kellogg, chapter X.

Allen Young, "Gay Manifesto," in xerox reader.

Anne Koedt, "Loving Another Woman," in xerox reader.

D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity," in xerox reader.

Dec. 8. The "Pro-Family" Movement of the 1980s.

Reading due: Ehrenreich, chapters 10 and 11.

Mintz and Kellogg, Epilogue.

George Gilder, Playboy Interview, in xerox reader.

John Whitehead, "Parents' Rights," in xerox.

Tim LaHaye, The Battle for the Family, in xerox.

Dec. 10. "Family Values:" Battles of the 1990s.

Dec. 15. Review

Reading due: Bane, chapters 5-end.