

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

SEMESTER 1 YEAR 1975-1976

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
History 625	American Social History before 1860	John Sharpless

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social History is generally concerned with the evolution of social institutions in response to changes in economy and politics. The primary focus of this course is the effect of economic development and territorial settlement on the patterns of family and community life in America from 1660 to 1860. The reading material and the lectures will serve to trace the changes in American social structure from its antecedents in Europe to its disruption in the era of the Civil War.

Among the topics to be discussed:

Fertility, population pressures and the settlement process
Family structure and witchcraft in New England
The decline in the status of women, 1750-1850
Children of the "new society:" changing concepts of child rearing
Economic development and social violence: the conditions for Civil War

LECTURES

Three lectures weekly, supplemented occasionally by discussion sessions.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS

Two preliminary examinations will be given as well as a final.

GRADING SYSTEM

The two midterm examinations will count for fifty percent of the final grade and the final examination count fifty percent as well. Participation in discussion will be taken into consideration.

REQUIRED READINGS

Among the required readings for the course will be:

Sumner Chilton Powell, Puritan Village (1963).

Chadwick Hansen, Witchcraft at Salem (1969).

David J. Rothman, The Discovery of Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic.

Barabra Welter, "The Cult of True Womenhood: 1820-1860."

A complete course outline and reading list will be available during registration week.