

History 562: The Family in American History

Fall, 2004

W 3:00-5:30

Prof. Treckel

Course Description:

In this seminar, the evolution of the American family as a social, economic and political institution will be explored from the colonial period to the present. The impact of wars, industrialization, immigration, and feminism on the family will be analyzed. Attention will be paid to how the family has evolved over time, and how its definition and purpose have changed. Finally, the "ideal" of the American family will be compared and contrasted to the realities of family life.

Required Readings:

Blassingame, John. *The Slave Community*.

Coontz, Stephanie. *The Way We Never Were*.

Demos, John. *A Little Commonwealth*.

Goodwin, Doris. *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*.

Hulbert, Ann. *Raising America*.

May, Elaine. *Homeward Bound*.

Mintz, Stephen and Susan Kellogg. *Domestic Revolutions*.

Smith, Daniel B. *Inside the Great House*.

Style Guide:

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*.

Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments:

Mintz and Kellogg

9/1	The Family in American History		
9/8	The Pilgrim Family	Demos	Ch. 1
9/15	Inside the Great House	Smith	Ch. 2-3
9/22	The Slave Family	Blassingame	Ch. 4
9/29	Industrialization and the Family (Library tour)		Ch. 5
10/6	Courtship and Gender Roles (Paper Proposals due)		
10/13	The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys	Goodwin	Ch. 6
10/20	Cold War and Family Life	May	Ch. 7-9
10/27	Raising America's Children	Hulbert	
11/03	Thesis Statements		
11/10	The Nostalgia Trap	Coontz.	
11/17	The Modern American Family		Ch. 10, Epilogue
11/24	Thanksgiving Break		
12/1	Oral Reports (Seminar Papers due)		
12/8	Oral Reports		

Course Requirements:

You are to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken. Students with more than **one** unexcused absence will have their final grade penalized.

You are expected to read all assigned books and actively participate in class discussions. All students are expected to be discussion facilitators for an assigned book during the term. Your leadership of this discussion will be evaluated as part of your class participation grade. Class participation is worth **1/5** of your final grade in the course.

All students are expected to write a Seminar Paper on a subject of interest to them and related to American family history. This paper must utilize both primary and secondary source material and should be approximately 25 pages in length. A preliminary paper proposal, consisting of a statement of purpose and a bibliography, is to be submitted in class on **10/6**. This paper proposal is worth **1/5** of the final grade in the course.

The Seminar Paper is due in class on **12/1**. No late papers will be accepted. The Seminar Paper is worth **3/5** of your final grade in the course.

All students must present their research to the class in the form of an Oral Report. This presentation will also be evaluated as part of your class participation grade in the course.

Office Hours & Phone Numbers:

Arter 214

M 1:30-3:00pm

TTH 8:00-9:15am

W 8:00-11:00am

& by appointment

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