

## History 562: The Family in American History

Fall, 2006

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:

Cott, Nancy. *Public Vows*.  
Demos, John. *A Little Commonwealth*.  
Farragher, John Mack. *Women and Men on the Overland Trail*.  
Gates, Henry Louis. *Colored People*  
Illick, Joseph. *American Childhoods*.  
May, Elaine. *Homeward Bound*.  
McCullough, David. *Mornings on Horseback*.  
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

9/6	The Family in American History		
9/13	The Pilgrim Family	Demos	Ch. 1
9/20	Inside the Great House	Smith	Ch. 2-3
9/27	Industrialization and the Family ( <b>Library tour</b> )		Ch. 5
10/4	The Way West	Farragher	Ch. 6
10/11	The Roosevelts and the New Century	McCullough	Ch.. 7
10/18	The Cold War and Family Life ( <b>Proposals due</b> )	May	Ch. 8-9
10/25	Childhood in America	Illick	
11/1	Black Families in White America	Gates	Ch. 4
11/8	<b>Thesis Statements</b>		
11/15	Man & Wife	Cott	
11/22	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>		
11/29	The Future of the Family?		Ch. 10, Epilogue
12/6	Oral Reports ( <b>Seminar Papers due</b> )		
12/13	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 **10/18**. This paper proposal is worth **1/5** of the final grade in the course. The Seminar Paper is due in class on **12/6**. 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 203

M 1:00-3:00pm

T 11:00am-1:00pm

W 1:00-3:00pm

Th 8:00-9:30am

& by appointment

Office Phone: 332-4309

Home Phones: 337-7572 (M-W)

(330)677-2323 (Th-Sun.)

email: [ptreckel@allegheny.edu](mailto:ptreckel@allegheny.edu)