Honors 240:002

Reading the Past: Families and Change Overtime

Fall, 2016

Professor Spencer Crew
TR 10:30 – 11:45 pm
Email: srcrew@gmu.edu

Office Hours: East Building 207 B  Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 – 1:00, and by appointment

NATURE OF THE COURSE AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The definition of family and the role of each member has evolved over the years. Often the changes are related to economic circumstances and the social beliefs of the society. This course will primarily examine the way the American family has changed since colonial days. In the process we will study how the responsibilities of women, children, and men have evolved and why. In addition we will learn how oral history can aid in researching family history.

EXAMINATIONS

Students are responsible for the material covered in lectures, readings, and class discussions. There are four writing assignments in the course including the final research paper.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is expected as lectures and discussions will cover ideas not in the readings. Attendance will be considered in the final grade. Participation in class discussions also will factor into the final grade. Students are expected to come to class on time, to have read the assignments, and prepared to contribute to class discussions.

CALCULATION OF GRADES

There will be three written assignments in the class. They will include two short papers of two to four pages and a final paper of eight to twelve pages. The specifics of these papers will be explained in class. The final grade calculation will be based on the following basis:

15% class participation and attendance
25% first short paper
25% second short paper
10% elder paper (pass/fail)
25% final paper

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require any type of special accommodation, testing or otherwise, please see me privately at the start of the semester. You must provide proper documentation and we will then make any needed adjustments. Also, if you have other issues which arise
that will affect the quality of your work; contact me as early as possible so we can discuss how to take these challenges into account.

**Drop/Add deadlines:**

- Last Day to Add: September 6, 2016
- Last Day to Drop **(67% tuition penalty):** September 30, 2016

**EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE HONOR CODE IN ALL THE WORK THEY PERFORM. VIOLATION OF THE HONOR CODE WILL RESULT IN FAILURE ON THE ASSIGNMENT OR FAILURE IN THE COURSE, DEPENDING ON HOW SEVERE THE INFRACTION.**

**TEXTS**

Steven Mintz & Susan Kellogg  
*Domestic Revolutions A Social history of American Family Life*

Peter N. Stearns  
*Childhood in World history*

Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*Little Town on the Prairie*

**CLASSROOM TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**Aug 30:**  
**Introduction**  
Defining Family and family History

[http://www.ncsociology.org/sociationtoday/v22/family.htm](http://www.ncsociology.org/sociationtoday/v22/family.htm)


Functional versus Dysfunctional Family (blackboard)

Mintz, Introduction

*guttinganarticle.pdf** (in blackboard)

*JournalArticleanalysis.pdf** (in blackboard)

**Sept. 1:**  
**Early Families:** Stearns, Chapters 2, 3, and 4

**Sept. 6:**  
**Families in the New World:** Mintz, chapter 1 and Demos readings (Demos folder 1)
Sept. 8  The Challenge of raising children: (Demos folder 2),


Sept. 13  Native Americans: Mintz, Chapter 2


Sept. 15:  African Americans: Mintz, chapter 4

Family in Enslavement (blackboard) read pages 1 – 52. Read 10 narrative of your choice in each section

Sept. 20:  Democratic Family: Mintz Chapter 3;


Sept. 22:  Engels, Little Town on the Prairie, all

Sept. 27:  First Paper Due

Researching family records and official documents

Sept. 29  Family History Research: Edward and Nikki Henderson of Fairfax County

Oct 4:  Oral History: How to do your own oral history interview | Discover Nikkei

www.discovernikkei.org/en/howto/interviews

Oct. 6  First meeting with elders

Oct 11  No class Columbus Day

Oct. 13  Industrial Family: Mintz, chapter 5, Stearns Chapter 6:


Oct. 18  Companionate Family: Mintz, Chapter 6,


Oct. 20  Flappers and the 1920s

The Flapper Wife Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt9qf33.7 (blackboard)
**Oct. 25**

Depression Family: Mintz, Chapter 7

“Always Lend a Helping Hand,” Sevier County Remembers the Great Depression ([http://newdeal.feri.org/sevier/interviews/](http://newdeal.feri.org/sevier/interviews/))

Interviews of Marvel Hunt; Jean Anna Rowley; VaNiel Taylor and Angie & William Wright


**Oct 27**

World War II and Family: Mintz, Chapter 8;


*Portland Assembly Center: Diary of Saku Tomita*, Zuigaku Kodachi, Jan Heikkala and Janet Cormack, _Oregon Historical Quarterly_, Vol. 81, No. 2 (Summer, 1980), pp. 149-171


(All above also in blackboard)

**Nov 1:**

Second meeting with Elders

**Nov. 3**

Families after WWII and the baby boom Mintz chapter 9 (pp. 177 -190).


_Rebel without a Cause: Teenagers in the 1950s_ (blackboard)

**Nov. 8**

Family in the 1960s and 1970s: Mintz, chapter 10 and Stearns, Chapter 10

**Nov 10**

The Feminist movementWomen’s Liberation and the family Mintz, chapter 10 and Epilogue

National women’s Liberation: What We Want and What We Believe

http://www.womensliberation.org/index.php/about/what-we-want-what-we-believe

After Black Power, Women’s Liberation  by Gloria Steinem


(Above on blackboard)

Nov. 15: Second Paper and submission of research plan for final paper

Nov. 17: Family in the 21st Century:


(both on blackboard)

Nov. 22: Research Day

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29: Debate about working mothers


Working Mothers Debate  (blackboard)

Pew Center Report on Stay at Home Mothers Chapter 4 “Public views” (blackboard)

1910 New York Times article “Should Women Work” (blackboard)

Dec. 1: Redefining Marriage: ---return elder

Same Sex Marriage Question, Read OBERGEFELL ET AL. v. HODGES, DIRECTOR, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ET AL. Supreme court Decision (blackboard);
The Changing Debate on Same-Sex Marriage in the United States, Margaret Gram Crehan and Katherine Rickenbaker, vol 20, Fall 2006-Spring 2007 Knowledge, http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/textidx?cc=mfsfront;c=mfs;c=mfsfront;idno=ark5583.0020.001;rgn=main;view=text;xc=1;g=mfg (blackboard)

*MARRIAGE (In)equality: The Perspectives of Adolescents and Emerging Adults Lesbians, Gay and Bisexual Parents* Abbie Goldberg and Katherine A. Kuvalanka, *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74 (February 2012): 34 – 52

Dec 6: Return history to Elder

Dec. 8: Defining the Modern Family:


9 Different Visions Of What Families Will Look Like 50 Years From Now by George Dvorsky


Is the Family of the Future Polyamorous? By Oliver Bateman March 14, 2016

https://mic.com/articles/137823/is-the-family-of-the-future-polyamorous#.v6TWpbIpi

Dec. 13: Final Paper Due