

HISTORY 2128 / GSWS 2248
Fall 2020
M 1:00-2:20, W 10:00-11:20 EDT/EST

McMahon
Hubbard Hall 11
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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN AMERICAN HISTORY, 1600-1900

The course examines the social, economic, and cultural history of American families—across time, regions, socio-economic classes, and among multiple racial, ethnic, and cultural groups—and explores the continuities, changes, and variations in the relationships between families and their particular kinship networks, communities, and the larger society. The course begins with the assumption that changes in the structure, function, and relationships of families and communities provide an indicator of changes in the larger society. Thus, the study of family and community has the potential to revise our understanding about the process—and periodization—of American history.

The course offers a focused survey of the social history of the United States between 1600 and 1900. Within a chronological framework, the course is organized topically. We will examine continuities, changes, and variations in gender relationships; racial, ethnic, cultural, and class variations in family and community ideals, structures, and functions; the purpose and expectations of marriage; philosophies of child-rearing; the organization of work and leisure time; the relationships between nuclear families and kinship networks, neighborhoods, and communities; and the effects of slavery and racial discrimination, industrialization, urbanization, immigration, and social and geographic mobility on patterns of family life and community organization.

Course requirements: The course consists of two class meetings each week. The reading assignments for each class should be completed by that class meeting. The “further readings” listed in the syllabus and the *Reading Guide* are *not* required. You are expected to attend class and to come to all class meetings and discussion sections prepared to discuss and analyze the readings [20% of final grade]. The *History 2128/GSWS 2248 Reading Guide (RG)* on *Blackboard* provides questions to help focus your reading for the class discussions. All reading assignments are available either through e-reserve (use the Library Reserves link on *Blackboard* or the e-reserves link on the *RG*), or by link to a database (JSTOR or SAGE Premier) or an online source from the *RG*. If you miss a discussion section meeting, you are expected to write a thoughtful evaluation (2-3 pages) of the assigned monograph. You are strongly encouraged to print the assigned articles and to purchase the assigned texts from the bookstore; a copy of each of the assigned books is on reserve in the library.

The essay assignments are an integral part of the course. Two critical analyses of primary documents (5 pages each) will be due during the semester [together, 40% of final grade]. A final take-home essay (10-12 pages) is due by the scheduled final-exam date for the course [40% of final grade]. The *Extension, Deadline, and Grading Policy* for the course can be found on the course home page.

All students are expected to read, understand, and abide by the Bowdoin College Academic Honor Code and by the rules of citation (When to Cite and How to Cite) described on the Bowdoin College Academic Honesty and Plagiarism website at <https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/judicial-board/academic-honesty-and-plagiarism/index.html>.

Texts: John Demos, *A Little Commonwealth: Family Life in Plymouth Colony* (1970, 2nd ed. 2000)
Irene Q. Brown and Richard D. Brown, *The Hanging of Ephraim Wheeler* (2003)
John Mack Faragher, *Women and Men on the Overland Trail* (1979, 2nd ed. 2001)
James Borchert, *Alley Life in Washington: Family, Community, Religion, and Folklife in the City, 1850-1970* (1982)
Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890; Penguin Classics reprint 1997)

The History 2128/GSWS 2248 Reading Guide and other online sources can be found on Blackboard or at <https://www.bowdoin.edu/~smcmahon/courses/hist248/index.html>

Week 1.

9/2 INTRODUCTION

Week 2.

9/7 PATRIARCHAL FAMILIES IN ENGLAND AND EUROPE

document: Frederick Engels, from *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* (1884), in Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader* (1978), 734-751. (e-reserve)

9/9 NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

readings: James A. Brown, "America before Columbus," in Fred Hoxie, ed., *Indians in American History* (1988), 19-45. (e-reserve)

Emerson W. Baker, "Finding the Almouchiquois: Native American Families, Territories, and Land Sales in Southern Maine," *Ethnohistory* 51.1 (2004), 73-100. (ProQuest)

Week 3.

Colonial America

9/14 NEW ENGLAND TOWNS IN THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES: The Intensification of Familiar Ideals and the Seeds of Change

document: Plymouth Colony, "Mayflower Compact," (1620), (RG)

readings: Stephen Baskerville, "The Family in Puritan Political Theology," *Journal of Family History* 18.2 (1993), 157-177. (SAGE Premier)

Patricia J. Tracy, "Re-Considering Migration Within Colonial New England," *Journal of Social History* 23.1 (1989), 93-113. (JSTOR)

Guidelines for Writing a Critical Analysis of a Primary Document. (RG)

History 2128/GSWS 2248 Primary Document Collections. (RG)

Extension Policy; Brief Guides to Footnote Citations and Correction Marks (RG)

9/16 DISCUSSION: Puritan Families and Well-Ordered Communities

reading: John Demos, *A Little Commonwealth* (1970, 2nd ed. 2000).

Week 4.

9/21 WHITE SOCIETY IN THE CHESAPEAKE, 1607-1750

document: "A Declaration of the State of the Colony and Affairs in Virginia" (July 22, 1620) (RG)

readings: Kevin Kelly, "In Dispers'd Country Plantations: Settlement Patterns in 17th century Surry County, Virginia," in Thad Tate, ed., *The Chesapeake in the Seventeenth Century* (1979), 183-205. (e-reserve)

Jan Lewis, "Domestic Tranquillity and the Management of Emotion among the Gentry of Pre-Revolutionary Virginia," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd Ser., 39.1 (1982), 135-149. (JSTOR)

9/23 AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES AND CULTURE IN THE COLONIAL SOUTH: The Origins of the Slave System

readings: Ira Berlin, "From Creole to African: Atlantic Creoles and the Origins of African-American Society in Mainland North America," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd Ser., 53.2 (1996), 251-288. (JSTOR)

Jean Butenhoff Lee, "The Problem of Slave Community in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd Ser., 43.3 (1986), 333-361. (JSTOR)

First critical analysis (document written between 1600 and 1800) due

Week 5.

The Revolution and the Early Republic

9/28 THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA: The Rise of New Domestic Values and the End of the Old Hierarchy

readings: T. H. Breen, "Narrative of Commercial Life: Consumption, Ideology, and Community on the Eve of the American Revolution," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd Ser., 50.3 (1993), 471-501. (JSTOR)

Toby L. Ditz, "Ownership and Obligation: Inheritance and Patriarchal Households in Connecticut, 1750-1820," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd Ser., 47.2 (1990), 235-265. (JSTOR)

9/30 DISCUSSION: Family, Community, and the Law on the Massachusetts Frontier in 1806

reading: Irene Q. Brown and Richard D. Brown, *The Hanging of Ephraim Wheeler* (2003)

Week 6.

10/5 CHILD REARING AND EDUCATION IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD AND THE EARLY REPUBLIC

readings: Rodney Hessinger, "Problems and Promises: Colonial American Child Rearing and Modernization Theory," *Journal of Family History* 21.2 (1996), 125-143. (SAGE Premier)

Maris A. Vinovskis, "Family and Schooling in Colonial and Nineteenth-Century America," *Journal of Family History* 12.1 (1987), 19-37. (SAGE Premier)

The Nineteenth Century

10/7 THE RISE OF THE CITY: New Forms of Community

reading: Stuart M. Blumin, "Explaining the New Metropolis," Perception, Depiction, and Analysis in Mid-Nineteenth-Century New York City," *Journal of Urban History* 11.1 (1984), 9-38. (SAGE Premier)

Week 7.

10/12 Fall Break

10/14 MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES IN THE NORTHEAST: Urbanizing Families and "Provincial" Folks

readings: C. Dallett Hemphill, "Manners and Class in the Revolutionary Era: A Transatlantic Comparison," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd Ser., 63.2 (2006), 345-372. (JSTOR)

Catherine E. Kelly, "'Well Bred Country People': Sociability, Social Networks, and the Creation of a Provincial Middle Class, 1820-1860," *Journal of the Early Republic* 19.3 (1999), 451-479. (JSTOR)

Week 8.

10/19 INDUSTRIALIZATION: New Technologies, the Reorganization of Production, and Cultural Change and Conflict for Workers

reading: Chad Montrie, "'I Think Less of the Factory than of My Native Dell': Labor, Nature, and the Lowell 'Mill Girls,'" *Environmental History*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (Apr., 2004), 275-295. (JSTOR)

Thomas Dublin, "Rural-Urban Migrants in Industrial New England: The Case of Lynn, Massachusetts, in the Mid-Nineteenth Century," *Journal of American History* 73.3 (1986), 623-644. (JSTOR)

10/21 NEW IDEALS AND REALITIES: Womanhood and Manhood

readings: Anya Jabour, "Masculinity and Adolescence in Antebellum America: Robert Wirt at West Point, 1820-1821," *Journal of Family History* 23.4 (1998), 393-416. (SAGE Premier) *continued next page*

Patricia Kelleher, "Class and Catholic Irish Masculinity in Antebellum America: Young Men on the Make in Chicago," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 28.4 (2009), 7-42. (JSTOR)

Week 9.

10/26 CULTURAL FRONTIERS IN THE RURAL MIDWEST AND WEST

readings: Susan Sessions Rugh, "Civilizing the Countryside: Class, Gender, and Crime in Nineteenth-Century Rural Illinois," *Agricultural History* 76.1 (2002), 58-81. (JSTOR)

Albert L. Hurtado, "When Strangers Met: Sex and Gender on Three Frontiers," *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, 17.3 (1996), 52-75. (JSTOR)

10/28 DISCUSSION: The Transmission of Ideals to the Trans-Mississippi West

reading: John Mack Faragher, *Women and Men on the Overland Trail* (1979, 2nd ed. 2001). *Note*: if you read the 1979 1st edition, read the preface to the 2001 2nd edition. (e-reserve)

Week 10.

11/2 UTOPIAN ALTERNATIVES TO FAMILY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

reading: Jeanette C. Lauer and Robert H. Lauer, "Sex Roles in Nineteenth-century American Communal Societies," *Communal Societies* 3 (1983), 16-28. (e-reserve)

11/4 UTOPIAN ALTERNATIVES TO COMMUNITY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

readings: TBA

Second critical analysis (document written between 1800 and 1900) due

Week 11.

11/9 SLAVERY AND THE SHAPING OF ANTE- AND POST-BELLUM SOUTHERN SOCIETY

readings: Anthony E. Kaye, "Neighborhoods and Solidarity in the Natchez District of Mississippi: Rethinking the Antebellum Slave Community," *Slavery and Abolition* 23.1 (2002), 1-24. (e-reserve)

John William Graves, "Jim Crow in Arkansas: A Reconsideration of Urban Race Relations in the Post-Reconstruction South," *Journal of Southern History* 55.3 (1989), 421-448. (JSTOR)

11/11 DISCUSSION: African American Families and Neighborhoods in Urban Society

reading: James Borchert, *Alley Life in Washington* (1980). *Note*: read the conclusion first.

Week 12.

11/16 IMMIGRATION, ASSIMILATION, AND NATIVISM: Becoming "American" in the Nineteenth Century?

reading: James R. Barrett, "Americanization from the Bottom Up: Immigration and the Remaking of the Working Class in the United States, 1880-1930," *Journal of American History* 79.3 (1992), 996-1020. (JSTOR)

The Late Nineteenth Century

11/18 DISCUSSION: "How the other half lives"

document: Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890, reprint 1971).

Week 13.

11/23 TBA

11/25 Thanksgiving break

Week 14.

11/30 STRAINS IN MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY LIFE IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY

readings: Robert Griswold, "Divorce and Legal Redefinition of Victorian Manhood," in Mark Carnes, ed., *Meanings for Manhood* (1990), 96-110. (e-reserve)

Lawrence M. Lipin, "Burying the 'Destroyer of One Happy Home': Manhood, Industrial Authority, and Political Alliance Building in the Murder Trial of Ira Strunk," *Journal of Social History* 28.4 (1995), 783-800. (JSTOR)

12/2 FAMILY, WELFARE, AND THE STATE

readings: Steven Mintz, "Regulating the American Family," *Journal of Family History* 14.4 (1989), 387-408. (SAGE Premier)

Michael Grossberg, "Who Gets the Child? Custody, Guardianship, and the Rise of a Judicial Patriarchy in Nineteenth-Century America," *Feminist Studies* 9.2 (1983), 235-260. (JSTOR)

Week 15.

12/7 SUBURBANIZATION, SEGMENTATION, AND CONSUMERISM: The Evolution of Mass Culture in America

reading: Margaret Marsh, "From Separation to Togetherness: The Social Construction of Domestic Space in American Suburbs, 1840-1915," *Journal of American History* 76.2 (1989), 506-527. (JSTOR)

12/9 THE CHANGING BOUNDARIES OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

reading: *Food for Thought: The Changing Boundaries of Family and Community*.

Final take-home essay due: Monday, Dec. 21, 5:00 pm EST