

History 352 (h352.f09)

Autumn 2009

The History of the American Family

3 credits

M,W,F 10-10:50

L&L 223

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Office Hours: 11-12 Monday-Friday except the first and third Thursday/month and by appointment

This course surveys the history of the American family, with special emphasis on the political, economic, and social forces that redefined the ideal family, its size, its roles, and the solutions to its problems. We will explore the colonial experience, the slave family, immigrant family, frontier family, the reforms of the Progressive Era, and the impact of modernization, depression and war. A wide variety of sources will be employed, including novels, memoirs, films, speeches, government reports, letters and newspapers.

Books. Please purchase at campus bookstore or Jerrol's:

Mintz, Steven. Domestic Revolutions

Sone, Monica. Nisei Daughter

Yeziarska, Anzia. Bread-Givers

Requirements:

Students are expected to attend class, arrive promptly, and participate.

Your final course grade will be based on the average of four grades:

1. one-hour essay-format mid-term exam, based on readings, lectures, and discussions. Bring a bluebook and pen, not pencil.
2. two-hour final exam, based on lectures, discussions and readings since the last test. Bring bluebook and pen. (Wed, December 9 at 8-10am)
3. Average of quiz grades, based on reading assignments, newspaper and library assignments and writing workshops. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped before the quiz average is figured.
4. One original research paper, typed and double-spaced, of 3 pages plus footnotes, based on New York Times articles on microfilm (Brooks Library, third floor) on a relevant topic of your choice.

There will be no make-up tests, quizzes, or other assignments except in extreme emergencies such as absence due to Swine Flu.

No late work can receive full credit.

Students are responsible for material covered in their absence.

There will be no extra-credit projects.

Students who lack confidence in studying and writing about history may work with a tutor, free of charge, at the Writing Center (in 103 Hertz Hall, SURC or Brooks Library)

Fishbowl). Regularly weekly appointments via 963 1296/1270 or www.cwu.edu/~writingcenter as well as drop-ins are possible.

Do not bring cell phones or other electronics to class.

CWU has a strong anti-plagiarism policy, articulated at the back of the catalog.

Student Outcomes: By the end of the quarter, students will improve their ability to

1. Identify key events, persons and themes in US Family history
2. Compare and evaluate opposing interpretations of historical issues by scholars, historical figures, film-makers, novelists, and journalists.
3. Understand the relationship between past and contemporary actions and strategies.
4. Familiarize themselves with history sources in the CWU library.
5. Apply critical thinking and objectivity to evaluation of primary and secondary sources.
6. Collect, organize, document and evaluate research materials clearly, in writing.

Week I

Wed, September 23: Intro to Course. Begin Colonial Family. Go read Mintz, chapter 1-3.

Fri, Sept 25: Colonial Family

Week II

Mon, Sept 28: Colonial family

Wed, Sept 30: Antebellum Family. Go read Mintz, Chapter 4

Fri, Oct 2: Antebellum Family

Week III

Mon, Oct 5: Frontier Family

Wed, Oct 7: Frontier Family

Fri, Oct 9: Slave Family. Go read Mintz, Chapter 4

Week IV

Mon, Oct 11: Slave Family

Wed, Oct 14: Research skills/documentation and footnoting

Fri, Oct 18: Meet in Brooks Library, Third floor/Use New York Times microfilm

Week V

Mon, Oct 19: Writing Workshop

Wed, Oct 21: Review for Midterm

Fri, Oct 23: Midterm Exam

Week VI

Mon, Oct 26: Go over exam. Be there or be square

Wed, Oct 28: Urbanization and Immigration. Go Read Mintz, Chapter 5

Fri, Oct 30: Paper Due. Hand in a double-spaced, typed description and analysis of at least ten newspaper (primary) sources on your selected topic. Use correct format for footnotes.

Week VII

Mon, Nov 2: Urbanization and Immigration.

Wed, Nov 4: Quiz and Discuss Yeziarska, Bread-Givers

Fri, Nov 6: Orphan Train

Week VIII

Mon, Nov 9: Progressive Era. Go read Mintz, Chapter 6

Wed, Nov 11: Veteran's Day Holiday

Wed, Nov 13: Roaring Twenties and Great Depression. Go read Mintz, Chapter 7.

Week IX

Mon, Nov 16: World War II. Go read Mintz, Chapter 8

Wed, Nov 18: Quiz and Discuss Sone, Nisei Daughter

Fri, Nov 20: Suburban Family. Go read Mintz, Chapter 9

Week X

Mon, Nov 23: 1960s Family. Go read Mintz, Chapter 10 and 11

Wed, Nov 25: Thanksgiving holiday

Monday, Nov 30: Modern Family

Wed, Dec 2: Visit Kittitas County Historical Museum on Third Street next to Ellensburg Post Office for artifacts relating to local family history

Fri, Dec 4: Review for final

Mon, Dec 7: Study Day

Wed, Dec 9: Final Exam 8-10am

The Bread-Givers by Anzia Yeziarska

1. How is Sara American?
2. What must she turn her back on to become American?
3. What are the pressures to stay as she was?
4. What help is available to her to change?
5. What alternatives did her sisters have?
6. Does she face discrimination, as a woman, as a youth, as a foreigner, as a poor person, as a Jewish immigrant?
7. What are the tensions between American habits and old world culture?
8. What is the function of education in this book?
9. What is the author's view of men and marriage?
10. What does this book say about the issue of work?

Nisei Daughter by Sone

1. Why did the author write her autobiography? Goals?
2. Injustices she faced.
3. Personality of the protagonist.
4. Tension between Japanese and American cultures and her attitudes toward both.
5. Cooperation of family. Of community.
6. Work: roles of each member.
7. Marriage.
8. Education.
9. Responsibilities between the generations. Issues on which they are divided.
10. Compare and contrast with Bread Givers.
11. Changes created by war.
12. Costs of war to the Itoi Family.