

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

BOOKS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE

1. Edmund S. Morgan, *The Puritan Family: Religion and Domestic Relations in Seventeenth-Century New England*. 1944; reprinted New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1966. \$13.95.
2. Willa Cather, *My Antonia*. 1918; reprinted New York: Signet Classics, 2005. Introduction by Marilyn Sides. \$4.95.
3. Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night*. 1955; reprinted New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002. Foreword by Harold Bloom. \$12.95.
4. Monica Sone, *Nisei Daughter*. Introduction by S. Frank Miyamoto. 1953; reprinted Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998. \$14.95.
5. Edward Steichen, *The Family of Man*. Prologue by Carl Sandburg. 1955; reprinted New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2002. \$19.95.
6. Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*. 1998; reprinted New York: Basic Books, A Subsidiary of Perseus Books, L.L.C., 1990. \$22.00.
7. Paule Marshall, *Brown Girl, Brownstones*. With an afterword by Mary Ellen Washington. 1959; reprinted New York: The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2006. \$15.95.
8. Carol Stack, *All Our Kin*. 1974; reprinted New York Basic Books/A Subsidiary of Perseus Books, L.L.C., 1997. \$12.00.
9. Kath Weston, *The Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship*. 1991; revised New York: Columbia University Press, 1997. \$17.50.
10. Abigail Garner, *Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It Is*. New York: Harper Paperbacks, 2005. \$13.95

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the evolution of American families from colonial times to the present. We will consider the impact of religion, region, race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexual orientation on family formation and culture and will explore such issues as representation, memory, and the ideology of family life. Readings, films, photography, and discussions will emphasize an interdisciplinary approach to the development of American familial cultures and will include both primary and secondary sources.

COURSE DESCRIPTION, CONTINUED:

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

The Junior Seminar will focus on providing students with preliminary training in analytical and methodological skills necessary to pursue a research project in American Studies. As a result, we will devote special attention to learning how to identify and frame engaging and significant problems, locate sources, interpret and deploy evidence, draw from useful analytical and methodological approaches, develop persuasive narrative strategies, revisit and sharpen our ideas through the writing of multiple drafts, and critique each others' work in a constructive and mutually supportive environment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The design of this course has been assisted by advice from John Gillis and Philip Greven of the Rutgers-New Brunswick Department of History, Jan Lewis of the Rutgers-Newark Department of History, Al Nigrin of the Rutgers Film Co-op, Charles Silver of the Museum of Modern Art Film Study Center, Marc Stein of York University, and Susan McKinnon of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Virginia.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

THE SYLLABUS FOR THIS COURSE AND ALL OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>. THEY SHOULD BE PRINTED OUT AND BROUGHT TO CLASS. ANY COMMUNICATIONS WITH ME SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO MY E-MAIL ADDRESS: fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu.

NOTE: ALL PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE INSTRUCTOR IN HARD COPY ON THE DATE ASSIGNED. PENALTIES FOR LATENESS MAY INCLUDE FAILURE ON THE ASSIGNMENT. HELP IN WRITING PAPERS MAY BE FOUND IN THE RESOURCE SECTION OF THE SAKAI WEB SITE: ACKNOWLEDGING SOURCES, GUIDE TO FOOTNOTES AND ENDNOTES, AND GUIDE TO WRITING ESSAYS AND TERM PAPERS IN AMERICAN STUDIES.

Full Attendance and Spirited Class Participation = 30%. This is a seminar. Its success depends on your active and informed participation in our weekly discussions. Therefore, attendance is required at ALL class meetings (only ONE unexcused absence will be permitted without penalty), and class participation constitutes an essential part of the final grade. Chronic lateness will lower your final class grade. To have an absence counted as "excused," it must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from your dean or other verifiable evidence such as a dated note from a physician, which must be presented to the instructor. Missing more than four class sessions will result in an automatic failing grade (F) for the course. If you miss a screening, you are responsible for arranging with Media Services to make it up.

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

Participation in class discussion: (10% of final grade).

Each student will be the primary moderator of one class and the assistant moderator of another: (10% of final grade).

Five one-page (two-paragraph) responses to assigned reading for each week. You may choose the weeks on which you write these papers. They will be graded on a scale of 1-5, based on the originality of your insights and the clarity, intelligence, wit or humor of your perceptions. They should be posted on the Discussion and Private Messages section of the Sakai course web site and, only if that procedure fails for technical reasons, e-mailed to me at (fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu) no later than 7:00 P.M. on the night preceding class. Make sure to include your name and the text you are discussing on your paper as well as a question intended to stimulate class discussion. These papers will allow us to work on your writing on a regular basis. They also will improve class discussion. (10% of final grade)

The New York Times paper due Tuesday, September 11th (10% of final grade)

The world of families, the social policies that shape and sustain them, the biological acts that produce them, the cultural meanings we attach to them, have all changed enormously in the last generation. Complicated family issues appear constantly in the popular media, and not always in just the ways we expect. The intent of this assignment is to teach you to read for family issues and to give you some practice in the kinds of close analysis of sources that will go into your final papers. To write these papers go to the *New York Times* for the week of your birthday twenty years ago and find one such family question addressed. You are to locate the article from *New York Times* (Proquest Historical Newspapers). Go the Rutgers University Libraries home page, make sure that you are logged on, click on Find Articles, then click on Indexes and Databases. Search the letter N. You will find ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *New York Times*. Search the *Times* for the week of your birthday (seven days before or afterward) twenty years ago, and provide me with a printout of both the article image (PDF) and the page map of the page on which the article had been located. Don't be afraid to be imaginative. Look in all sections of the paper. You should summarize the issues raised and explain how an idea about "family" is present in the article you have chosen. What assumptions about the shape and nature of family and family-related issues inform the article? What questions does the article raise? How have such questions and assumptions changed in the last two decades? What does the story tell us about the concerns of the 1980s or whichever decade in which you were born? What does the story reveal about the kinds of tensions historian John Gillis has described between the cultural

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

ideals represented by an idea of family and the real worlds in which people operate (see excerpt below)? **Your papers should be about 2 pages long. Each one should include the full citation for the article you analyze and a printout of the article image (PDF) and of the page map of the page on which the article appears.**

John R. Gillis, *A World of their Own Making: Myth, Ritual, and the Quest for Family Values*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1997. P. 7.

We must be careful not to confuse the family that we live by with the families that previous generations actually lived with. Until quite recently, historians also failed to make this distinction, but in the last two decades demographic and social history research has revealed a very different picture of families past, one that suggests much more continuity between families past and present in actual behavior than anyone would have imagined. It seems that the fragmentation, instability, and discontinuity that we feel so keenly today has been part of the European experience of family life since at least the Middle Ages.

Research proposal Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography due Friday, September 28th at 5:00 P.M. (Sunday, September 30th at 5:00 P.M. for observant Jews) via e-mail to instructor at fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu. **Topic to be approved by instructor by Tuesday, September 18th**. Students will write a 1,000 word proposal outlining their research project. Each paper must include an annotated bibliography that explains the relevance and relative strengths and weaknesses of the secondary material you have selected to contextualize and provide evidence for your topic. Proposals also will specify a question, or set of questions, you plan to explore and detail a research strategy. (10% of final grade)

First draft due Thursday, October 25th 5:00 P.M. via e-mail to instructor and small group members. First draft should consist of introduction and at least one section. (10% of final grade)

Second draft due Friday, November 16th at noon to instructor's mailbox in RAB 024 and to small group members via e-mail, instructor to be copied. The second draft should be a full rough draft of the complete seminar paper of 10-12 pages. (20% of final grade)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, CONTINUED:

Final draft: Polished and complete. Authors will submit their finished drafts, complete with annotated bibliography. Due Thursday, December 13th by 5:00 P.M.

Leslie Fishbein
American Studies Department
F.A.S., Rutgers University

5

Fall 2007
Ruth Adams Building 018
Tuesday 1, 2: 9:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

in instructor's mailbox in Ruth Adams Building 024C. Provide stamped self-addressed 9 x 12" manila envelope for return of term paper with instructor's comments. (20% of final grade)

PROFESSOR FISHBEIN'S OFFICE HOURS:

OFFICE: Adams Hall 024C **OFFICE HOURS:** Monday: 12:15 – 1:45
Tuesday 12:15 – 1:45
And by appointment

TELEPHONE: 732-932-8650

E-MAIL: fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with documented disabilities should present their documentation to the instructor at the beginning of the semester in order to be afforded appropriate accommodations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Except for collaborative assignments officially approved by the instructor in advance, all work a student submits must be his/her own independent effort. Students must cite properly all outside sources consulted in preparing written assignments. Students should review the university policy on Academic Integrity (see the website for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>). The Writing Program maintains a website that defines and discusses plagiarism: http://wp.rutgers.edu/courses/201/plagiarism_policy/. This site clarifies many issues regarding the University's policy on academic integrity. Failure to comply with this policy can result in failure of the course.

Plagiarism is the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be promptly cited in the text or in a footnote. Acknowledgement is required when material from another source is stored in print, electronic, or other medium and is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: "to paraphrase Plato's comment ..." and conclude with a footnote identifying the exact reference. A footnote acknowledging only a directly quoted statement does not suffice to notify the reader of any preceding or succeeding paraphrased material. Information which is common knowledge, such as names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc., need not be footnoted; however, all facts or information obtained in reading or research that are not common knowledge among students in the course must be acknowledged. In addition to materials specifically cited in the text, only materials that contribute to one's general understanding of the subject may be acknowledged in the bibliography. Plagiarism can, in some cases, be a subtle issue. Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism should be discussed with the faculty member. For information on proper documentation, consult Acknowledging Sources:

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

<http://amerstudies.rutgers.edu/documents/AcknowledgingSources.pdf>, the guide prepared by the Rutgers American Studies Department, which is available on the American Studies Department web site and on the course Sakai web site.

FILM SHOWINGS:

FILM

SHOW DATE

<i>Bathing Babies in Three Cultures</i> (1954) and <i>Why Can't We Be a Family Again?</i> (2002)	September 4 th
<i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i> (excerpts) (1962)	October 2 nd
<i>The Mothering Heart</i> (1913)	October 9 th
<i>Family Gathering</i> (1988)	October 16 th
<i>An American Family Revisited</i> (1983)	October 30 th
<i>Ugly Betty: The Complete First Season</i> (2006)	November 27 th
<i>Paris Is Burning</i> (1990)	December 4 th
<i>We are Family</i> (1986) and <i>Daughters of Dykes</i> (1995)	December 11 th

FILMS PLACED ON RESERVE AT MEDIA SERVICES, MABEL SMITH DOUGLASS LIBRARY (CALL 732-932-9411, EXT. 34 TO BOOK MEDIA TO INSURE AVAILABILITY AND TO CHECK MEDIA LIBRARY HOURS)

<i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i> (1992, 170 minutes)	Tuesday, September 18 th – Tuesday, October 2 nd
<i>Raisin in the Sun</i> (1961, 128 minutes)	Tuesday, October 23 rd – Tuesday, November 6 th

ASSIGNMENTS: All readings on reserve at the Mabel Smith Douglass Reserve Desk and articles available on electronic reserve or as class handouts

No.

Week of:

Readings and Films:

I. September 4th **Introduction: Workshop on Writing a Research Paper:**

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

Using film as a primary source and framing research questions

BATHING BABIES IN THREE CULTURES (9 MINUTES, 1954) SHOWN IN CLASS

WHY CAN'T WE BE A FAMILY AGAIN? (2002) (27 MINUTES, 2002) SHOWN IN CLASS

II. September 11th

Workshop on Drafting Paper Proposals and on Contextualizing Visual Culture Evidence

Edmund S. Morgan, *The Puritan Family: Religion and Domestic Relations in Seventeenth-Century New England*. 1944; reprinted New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1966. Foreword, pp. ix-x; 1-186.

****New York Times paper due in hard copy in class**

III. September 18th
LAST DATE TO APPROVE TERM PAPER TOPIC

John Blassingame, Chapter 3: The Slave Family in *The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1972. Pp. 77 – 103.

Herbert G. Gutman, Chapter 2: Because She Was My Cousin in *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1976. Pp. 45-100; Notes, pp. 555-564.

Christie Farnham, “Sapphire? The Issue of Dominance in the Slave Family, 1830-1865” in *Black Women in American History*, Vol. 2. Brooklyn, New York: Carlson Publishing, Inc., 1990, pp. 369-384,

-- continued on page 8

No. Week of: Readings and Films:

III. September 18th
(continued)

Sharon Harley, "Gender, Work, and Domestic Roles in the Black Community, 1880-1930," in *Black Women in America: Social Science Perspectives*, eds. Micheleine R. Malson, Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, Jean F. O'Barr, Mary

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

**D. W. GRIFFITH'S *THE MOTHERING HEART* (1913,
30 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS**

**Individual meetings with instructor in Ruth Adams
024C to be scheduled on Monday, October 8th or
Tuesday, October 9th**

VII. October 16th

**Workshop on bibliography, citations, and academic
integrity**

Monica Sone, *Nisei Daughter*. Introduction by S. Frank
Miyamoto. 1953; reprinted Seattle: University of
Washington Press, 1998. S. Frank Miyamoto, Introduction
to the 1979 Edition, pp. vii-xiv; Preface to the 1979
Edition, pp. xv-xvii; 3-238.

***FAMILY GATHERING* (1988, 30 MINUTES) SHOWN
IN CLASS**

VIII. October 23rd

Edward Steichen, *The Family of Man*. Prologue by Carl
Sandburg. 1955; reprinted New York: The Museum of
Modern Art, 2000. Introduction by Edward Steichen;
Prologue by Carl Sandburg; 6-193; back cover.

Roland Barthes, "The Great Family of Man," in Roland
Barthes, *Mythologies*, selected and translated from the
French by Annette Lavers. New York: Hill and Wang,
1972, pp. 100-102.

Susan Sontag, "America Seen through Photographs,
Darkly," in Susan Sontag, *On Photography*. New York:
Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1977, pp. 27-48.

**Each student should bring in a family photograph.
-- continued on page 10**

No.

Week of:

Readings and Films:

VIII. October 23rd
(continued)

****First draft due Thursday, October 25th 5:00 P.M. via e-
mail to instructor and small group members. First
draft should consist of introduction and at least one
section.**

***RAISIN IN THE SUN* (1961, 128 MINUTES) ON**

Leslie Fishbein
American Studies Department
F.A.S., Rutgers University

Fall 2007
10 Ruth Adams Building 018
Tuesday 1, 2: 9:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

RESERVE MABEL SMITH DOUGLASS LIBRARY,
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD – TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 6TH

IX. October 30th **Workshop: First Draft Critiques**

Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*. 1988; reprinted New York: Basic Books, A Subsidiary of Perseus Books, L.L.C., 1990. Acknowledgments, pp. ix-xi; Introduction, pp. 3-15; pp. 16-226; Appendices, pp. 227-246. Notes, pp. 247-278.

“Lance Loud Obituary,” AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 25 December 2001:

http://www.aidshealth.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=586&Itemid=194.

AN AMERICAN FAMILY REVISITED (55 MINUTES, 1983) SHOWN IN CLASS.

X. November 6th **Workshop: Giving Paper Presentations**

Paule Marshall, *Brown Girl, Brownstones*. With an afterword by Mary Ellen Washington. 1959; reprinted New York: The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2006. Dedication; Foreword by Edwidge Danticat: pp. ix-xii; pp. 1-310; Afterword, pp. 311-324.

RAISIN IN THE SUN (1961) TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS

No. Week of: Readings and Films:

XI. November 13th **Workshop: Presenting your paper as a work-in-progress**

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, *et al. The Moynihan Report (1965): The Negro Family: The Case For National Action Office of Policy Planning and Research*. United States

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

Department of Labor, March 1965, BlackPast.org:
<http://www.blackpast.org/?q=primary/moynihan-report-1965>

Lee Rainwater and Yancey L. Williams, *The Moynihan Report and the Politics of Controversy*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1967: Christopher Jencks, "The Moynihan Report," pp. 442-444; Herbert J. Gans, "The Negro Family: Reflections on the Moynihan Report," pp. 445-457; William Ryan, "Savage Discovery: The Moynihan Report," pp. 457-466; Laura Carper, "The Negro Family and the Moynihan Report," pp. 466-474; Frank Riessman, "In Defense of the Negro Family," pp. 474-478.

Patricia Hill Collins, "Will the 'Real' Mother Please Stand Up: Eugenics and American Family Planning," in Adele Clarke and Virginia Olesen, *Revisioning Women, Health, and Healing* (Routledge, 1999), pp. 266-282.

K. Sue Jewell, "Social Policy and Black Family Structure" in Survival of the Black Family, *The Institutional Impact of U.S. Social Policy*. New York: Praeger, 1988, pp. 11-34.

Filomina Chioma Steady, ed. *The Black Woman Cross-Culturally*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Schenkman Publishing Company, Inc., 1981: Brent Staples, "The Myth of the Black Matriarchy," pp. 335-348; Carol Stack, "Roles and Survival Strategies in the Urban Black Community," pp. 349-368.

"Sex

Kay S. Hymowitz, "The Black Family: 40 Years of Lies," *City Journal* (Summer 2005):
http://www.city-journal.org/html/15_3_black_family.html

No.	Week of:	Readings and Films:
XI.	November 13 th (continued)	**Second draft due Friday, November 16th at noon to instructor's mailbox in RAB 024 and to small group members via e-mail, instructor to be copied. The second draft should be a full rough draft of the complete seminar paper of 10-12 pages.
XII.	November 27 th	WRITING WEEK

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

Workshop: second draft critiques

Junot Diaz, "Drown," in Junot Diaz, *Drown* (1996; reprinted New York: Riverhead Books, 1997), pp. 91-107.

UGLY BETTY: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON, EPISODE 1 (2006, 45 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS

- XIII. December 4th Kath Weston, *The Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship*. 1991; revised New York: Columbia University Press, 1997. Dedication; Preface to the Paperback Edition: xi- xx; Acknowledgments: xxi; pp. 1-213; Appendix: 215-221; Notes: 223-233.

PARIS IS BURNING (1990, 71 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS

- XIV. December 11th Abigail Garner, *Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It Is*. New York: Harper Paperbacks, 2005. About the Author; Dedication; Quotation from Sol Kelley-Jones; Prologue: Some of My Best Parents Are Gay: pp. 1-12; pp. 13-224; Epilogue: In Celebration of Community: pp. 225-228; Afterword to the Paperback Edition: pp. 229-234; Appendix A: Queer Cultural Brainstorm: pp. 235-237; Appendix B: LGBT Family Resources: pp. 238-244; Notes: pp. 245-247; Acknowledgments; pp. 249-253.

WE ARE FAMILY (1986, 57 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS

No. Week of: Readings and Films:

- XIV. December 11th ***DAUGHTERS OF DYKES (1995, 14 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS***

****FINAL PAPER DUE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13TH BY 5:00 P.M. IN INSTRUCTOR'S MAILBOX IN RUTH ADAMS BUILDING 024: PROVIDE STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED 9 X 12" MANILA**

Leslie Fishbein
American Studies Department
F.A.S., Rutgers University

13

Fall 2007
Ruth Adams Building 018
Tuesday 1, 2: 9:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:389:01: JUNIOR SEMINAR:
AMERICAN FAMILIES

**ENVELOPE FOR RETURN OF TERM PAPER WITH
INSTRUCTOR'S COMMENTS**