

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. The course will focus on developing the writing and research skills essential to work in senior seminars and independent study courses.