

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

Fall 2008
Monday, Thursday 1st: 8:10-9:30 A.M.
Scott Hall 220

AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:341:01: THE CHILD IN AMERICA

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 Torchbooks, Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., 1966. \$13.95.
2. Bernard Wisby, *The Child and the Republic: The Dawn of Modern American Child Nurture*. Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968. \$17.95. Available from University Publishing Solutions (732-220-1211). Can be purchased at Rutgers University Bookstore.
3. Stephen Crane, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets and Selected Stories*. Edited and with an introduction by Alfred Kazin. New York: Signet Classic, The Penguin Group, 1991. \$4.95.
4. John Dewey, *The Child and the Curriculum and The School and Society*. 1900, 1902, 1915; reprinted New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 2001. \$8.95
5. Henry Roth, *Call It Sleep*, with an introduction by Alfred Kazin and afterword by Hana Wirth-Nesher. 1934; reprinted New York: Noonday Press, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. \$16.00.
6. Claude Brown, *Manchild in the Promised Land*. 1965; reprinted New York: A Touchstone Book, Simon & Schuster, 1999. \$15.00.
7. Nicholasa Mohr, *El Bronx Remembered: A Novella and Stories*. 1975; reprinted New York: HarperTrophy, A Division of HarperCollins Publishers, 1993. \$5.99.
8. J. D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*. 1951; reprinted Boston: LB Books, Little Brown and Company, 1991. \$6.99.
9. All articles available on reserve at the Alexander Library and online both at <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/> and at the Library Reserve web site: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib_servs/course_reserves.shtml

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.

See dates on film topics schedule: **4-5 page critical paper due**. This paper will analyze one film on reserve at Kilmer Area Library for a limited time in light of assigned readings. Research is not required, but, if you do rely on assigned readings or outside sources for facts or opinions, such sources must be acknowledged in footnotes and

bibliography. You will be required to sign up for the topics in advance. If you need help in preparing the paper, I would be happy to meet with you. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Monday, October 20th: Midterm examination.

Tuesday, November 25th: 8-10 page critical research paper due on topic to be decided in consultation with instructor by Thursday, September 28th. You are welcome to continue to consult with me in person and via phone and e-mail, but you are required to meet with me in person by Thursday, September 28th.

You also are required to include three of the sources we choose in the term paper you submit. Failure to utilize those sources may result in a lowered grade or failure on your term paper. All term papers must include footnotes or endnotes and bibliography in the format provided by Acknowledging Sources (on Sakai and American Studies Department web site) or in accordance with another scholarly citation format such as the Chicago Style Sheet.

Wednesday, December 18th: 12:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.: Final examination.

NOTE: MORE THAN THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES MAY RESULT IN FAILURE IN THE COURSE. TO BE EXCUSED ABSENCES MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY A NOTE FROM YOUR DEAN OR OTHER AUTHORITATIVE EVIDENCE.

TELEPHONE: 732-932-8650
E-mail: fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Monday: 10:00-11:30
Thursday: 1:30-3:00
and by appointment

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:

<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.

FILMS SHOWN IN CLASS:

Thursday, September 4 th	<i>Bathing Babies in Three Cultures</i> (1954, 9 minutes)
Thursday, October 2 nd	<i>Shadow Children: A Documentary about Homeless Children</i> (1991, 52 minutes)
Thursday, October 23 rd	<i>The Quiet One</i> (1948, 67 minutes)
Monday, November 3 rd	<i>We are Family</i> (1987, 59 minutes)
Thursday, November 13 th	<i>High School</i> (1969, 75 minutes)
Tuesday, November 25 th	<i>Barbie Nation: An Unauthorized Tour</i> (1998, 54 minutes)
Thursday, December 4 th	<i>Outside Looking In: Transracial Adoption in America</i> (2001, 67 minutes)

FILMS PLACED ON RESERVE AT MEDIA SERVICES, KILMER AREA LIBRARY (732-445-4980, EXTENSION 2 TO BOOK A VIEWING ROOM. CHECK LIBRARY HOURS):

FILM TOPICS SCHEDULE (All videotapes on reserve at the Kilmer Area Library)

Monday, October 13 th -Monday, October 27 th	<i>Avalon</i> (1990, 126 minutes) (paper due Monday, October 27th)
Monday, October 20 th -Monday, November 3 rd	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (1962, 130 minutes) (paper due Monday, November 3rd)
Thursday, November 6 th -Thursday, November 20 th	<i>Welcome to the Dollhouse</i> (1999, 87 minutes)

**FILM TOPICS SCHEDULE
FILM PAPER TOPICS:**

(All videotapes on reserve at the Kilmer Area Library)

AVALON (1990, 126 MINUTES)

Compare and contrast *Avalon* and Henry Roth's *Call It Sleep*. How do they treat such issues as gender, economic and geographical mobility, religiosity, ethnic acculturation, and sexuality on the process of youthful maturation in Jewish families?

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (1961, 130 MINUTES)

Compare and contrast *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Claude Brown's *Manchild in the Promised Land*. How do they treat such issues as the impact of race, racism, geographical region, and family structure on white and black children respectively? Compare the ways they envision the perils in the maturation process.

ASSIGNMENTS:

All readings on reserve at Alexander Library and on online electronic reserve

No. Week of:

Reading:

I. September 4th

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

BATHING BABIES IN THREE CULTURES (1954, 9 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

II. September 8th

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

III. September 15th

Bernard Wishy, *The Child and the Republic: The Dawn of Modern American Child Nurture*. Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968. Preface, vii-x, pp. 3-181.

- | No. | Week of: | Reading: |
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| IV. | September 22 nd | Stephen Crane, <i>Maggie: A Girl of the Streets</i> in Stephen Crane, <i>Maggie: A Girl of the Streets and Selected Stories</i> . Edited and with an introduction by Alfred Kazin. New York: Signet Classic, The Penguin Group, 1991. Introduction by Alfred Kazin: vii-xviii; <i>Maggie: A Girl of the Streets</i> : pp. 1-82. |
| V. | September 29 th

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH: LAST DATE TO CONSULT ON TERM PAPERS | Paula S. Fass and Mary Ann Mason, ed., <i>Childhood in America</i> . New York: New York University Press, 2000, pp. 417-476.

<i>SHADOW CHILDREN: A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT HOMELESS CHILDREN (1991, 52 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2ND</i> |
| VI. | October 6 th | John Dewey, <i>The Child and the Curriculum and The School and Society</i> . 1900, 1902, 1915; reprinted New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 2001 <i>The School and Society</i> : Author's Note: pp. 3-4; Author's Note to Second Edition: p. 5; pp. 5-101; <i>The Child and the Curriculum</i> : pp.103-123.

Introduction by Philip W. Jackson, John Dewey, <i>The Child and the Curriculum and The School and Society</i> , an expanded edition with a new introduction by Philip W. Jackson. 1900, 1902, 1915; reprinted Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1990: ix-xxvii |
| VII. | October 13 th | Henry Roth, <i>Call It Sleep</i> , with an introduction by Alfred Kazin and afterword by Hana Wirth-Nesher. 1934; reprinted New York: Noonday Press, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Introduction by Alfred Kazin: ix-xx; <i>Call It Sleep</i> : Prologue: pp. 9-16; pp. 17-441; Afterword by Hana Wirth-Nesher: Between Mother Tongue and Native Language in <i>Call It Sleep</i> : pp. 443-462.

<i>Avalon (1990) on reserve at Kilmer Area Library Monday, October 13th-Monday, November 27th.</i> |
| VIII. | October 20 th

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20TH: MIDTERM EXAM | Begin reading Claude Brown, <i>Manchild in the Promised Land</i> . 1965; reprinted New York: A Touchstone Book, Simon & Schuster, 1999. Dedication; Foreword: pp. 7-8; pp. 9-413.

<i>THE QUIET ONE (1948, 67 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD</i>
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No.	Week of:	Reading:
VIII.	October 20 th (continued)	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (1961) on reserve at Kilmer Area Library, Monday, October 20 th -Monday, November 3 rd .
IX.	October 27 th MONDAY, OCTOBER 27TH: AVALON PAPER DUE	Complete reading Claude Brown, <i>Manchild in the Promised Land</i> . 1965; reprinted New York: A Touchstone Simon & Schuster, 1999. Dedication; Foreword: pp. 7-8; pp. 9-413.
X	November 3 rd MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD: TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD PAPER DUE	Nicholasa Mohr, <i>El Bronx Remembered: A Novella and Stories</i> . 1975; reprinted New York: HarperTrophy, A Division of HarperCollins Publishers, 1993. Introduction by Nicholasa Mohr: two unnumbered pages, pp. 7-263; Portrait of Nicholasa Mohr at back of book. WE ARE FAMILY (1987, 59 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
XI.	November 10 th	John Demos and Virginia Demos, "Adolescence in Historical Perspective," in Paula S. Fass and Mary Ann Mason, ed., <i>Childhood in America</i> . New York: New York University Press, 2000, pp. 132-138. Begin reading J. D. Salinger, <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> . 1951; reprinted Boston: LB Books, Little Brown and Company, 1991. Dedication; pp. 1-214. HIGH SCHOOL (1969, 75 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH
XII.	November 17 th	Complete reading J. D. Salinger, <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> . 1951; reprinted Boston: LB Books, Little Brown and Company, 1991. Dedication; pp. 1-214. Welcome to the Dollhouse (1999, 87 minutes) to be discussed in class, Thursday, November 20th

No.	Week of:	Reading:
XIII.	November 24 th TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH: TERM PAPER DUE (PLEASE NOTE THAT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH IS A THURSDAY CLASS)	<p>Sonia Maasik and Jack Solomon, ed., <i>Signs of Life in the USA: Readings on Popular Culture for Writers</i>. 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford / St. Martin's, 2000: bell hooks, "Baby," pp. 568-570; Emily Prager, "Our Barbies, Ourselves," pp. 706-709; Gary Cross, "Barbie, G.I. Joe, and Play in the 1960s," pp. 710-716.</p> <p>Erica Rand, "Older Heads on Younger Bodies," pp. 382-393 in Henry Jenkins, ed., <i>The Children's Culture Reader</i>. New York: New York University Press, 1998.</p> <p>BARBIE NATION: AN UNAUTHORIZED TOUR (1998, 54 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH</p>
XIV.	December 1 st	<p>Nancy Pottishman Weiss, "Mother, the Invention of Necessity: Dr. Benjamin Spock's <i>Baby and Child Care</i>, <i>American Quarterly</i> 29. 5 (Winter 1977): 519-546.</p> <p>Helena Grice, "Feminism, Race, Transnationalism," <i>Meridians</i>: 5.2 (April 2005): 124-148.</p> <p>OUTSIDE LOOKING IN: TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION IN AMERICA (2001, 57 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH</p>
XV.	December 8 th	Final lecture. Students should review for final exam

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH: 12:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.: FINAL EXAMINATION