

**St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo**

Department of History

313 Fall 2022

History of Family in North America

2:30 – 3:50 Tuesday/Thursday

SJ1 3016

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Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Welcome to HIST313! This course will consider and *reconsider* the idea of 'the family' within North America, and its history of private interactions between family members in North America, as well as the family's relationship to public forces such as politics, the law, social movements, and the economy. This course will be rooted in an intersectional approach which asks students to consider, and perhaps confront, the realities that class, race, gender, and sexuality all play into differing experiences with the idea of family and that of history.

This course will encourage students to employ interdisciplinary methods to interrogate concepts, ideas, and materials and to draw connections between past and present and will contain an examination of a variety of sources. As such, this course has a substantial seminar component, which requires students to carry out close readings of texts each week as the basis for engaged discussion. Active and thoughtful participation based on course content, especially readings, is required for the successful completion of the course.

Classes falling on Tuesday will be in a lecture style; Thursday classes will be seminar-style.

**Required Readings:** All required readings for the course will be available on the Learn course module and/or via the library.

**Assignments, Weighting, and Due Dates**

- Participation (full term) – 35%
- Seminar Leadership (dates vary) – 20%
- Mid-Term Close Reading Paper – 20% (due October 27)
- Final Research Paper – 25% (due December 15)

**Participation:** Your participation grade is based on attendance in class. You will be asked to sign in for the seminar. If you only attend class and actively listen (without distraction), you will receive 65%. The rest of your participation grade is based on active contributions to the discussion based on the course readings. Participating in every class with points based on the

readings is necessary to earn a grade above 75%. You must critically read the materials for the week in advance to be fully prepared to speak about and ask questions about the readings. Participation marks are based on active involvement in the discussion and on the content of the comments. Students who must miss an in-class discussion of the readings due to illness or other extenuating circumstance must inform the instructor of their absence before the seminar. In order to do the make-up assignment (i.e. response paper) students must have a legitimate reason for their unavoidable absence and may be required to show documentation (e.g. a doctor's note). Make-up assignments cannot be used as a regular substitution for seminar attendance and participation. The response paper will be a critical reflection of the assigned readings for the week and will be 3-4 pages. Assignments are due one week after the missed seminar.

Discussions require that everyone participates (speaks and listens) in a meaningful and civil way. While there will be lots of disagreements and debates, everyone is expected to participate in a way that is respectful to everyone in the class and their ideas. Please keep in mind that this is a scholarly environment and professionalism is expected at all times

**Seminar Assignment:** Thursday scheduled classes will be a seminar-style class, with the discussion being led by differing students each week. Students will be asked to sign up for a seminar date within the first two weeks of class. Depending on final course enrollment numbers, students may work independently or in a group of two. The purpose of the assignment is to give students experience in synthesizing and presenting data to peers as well as structuring and moderating a discussion on the materials that week. Further details on the Seminar assignment will be provided on Learn.

**Mid-Term 'Close Reading' Paper:** This assignment asks students to choose a text from a pre-approved list (or suggest their own) and do a critical close reading of the text, exploring what it is conveying about the idea of family in history. Students will be asked to engage critically with questions pertaining to the creation of the text. Students will write a 5-7 page\* paper exploring their topic and utilize at least 5 primary and/or secondary sources. Further details to be made available on Learn.

**Final Research Paper:** Students will research and write an 8–10-page\* paper on a historical topic related to the history of family in North America. Students may select their own topic or select one from a suggested list (to be made available on Learn). Students must utilize both primary and secondary sources, the latter of which must be a minimum of 6-8. This assignment will serve as a capstone research project which encourages students to consider and *reconsider* the idea of 'the family' within North America, and to explore in greater depth a topic that interests them. Students

\*page count excludes footnotes, endnotes, bibliography, etc

## Course Schedule

- September 8: Welcome – (No Readings)
- September 13 & 15: The 'Ideal Family' Myth & Heteronormativity
- September 20 & 22: Indigenous Family Histories
- September 27 & 29: Settler & Colonial Family Dynamics (Guest Lecture)
- October 4 & 6: Black Family Histories

*October 11 & 13 – Reading Week, No Classes*

- October 18 & 20: Diaspora Family History
- October 25 & 27: Queer & Chosen Families

*Mid-Term Paper due October 28<sup>th</sup>*

- November 1 & 3: Family Planning, Contraception, and Abortion
- November 8 & 10: Teen Mothers & Moral Panic (Guest Lecture)
- November 15 & 17: Adoption & Foster Care
- November 22 & 24: Pets Are the New Kids
- December 6 – last day of classes, no reading

*Final Research Paper due December 15<sup>th</sup>*

## Additional Information

**COVID Notes and Procedures:** The following notes are in addition to the COVID policies of both the University of Waterloo and St Jerome's. It is recognized that the situation is fluid and these policies may shift at any point during the semester.

Masking is highly encouraged while in class. In the situation that a student tests positive for COVID-19, they are encouraged to inform the instructor. In the situation wherein the instructor tests positive for COVID-19, the course may shift to an online-delivery model until the instructor is able to resume in-person classes, or the class that week may be cancelled. The instructor will communicate with students regarding updates.

**Late Policy:** Students are expected to submit written assignments on the due date provided. If a student is unable to submit their assignment on that date, please notify the instructor as to when you expect to hand it in. Note, there is an absolute final cut-off date after which assignments can no longer be accepted (unless previously arranged due to extenuating circumstances), which is December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022.

**Note on Terminology and Content:** Due to the nature of the subject matter being discussed, there may be instances where sources/readings use out-of-date and offensive terminology.

Repetition of certain terminology will be discouraged and students are encouraged to use contemporary language in the classroom. Content warnings will be provided on Learn/before class and students are encouraged to place their mental health first and are free to leave class if material/discussion becomes overwhelming. In an effort to minimize harm, graphic content will not be part of the course materials, although some students may still find material upsetting and are encouraged to speak to the instructor.

**Attendance Policy:** All students are expected to attend all classes. Students are responsible for the content of the course whether or not they choose to attend. Instructors notes are not shared. There will be an attendance sign-in for seminar days.

**Electronic Device Policy:** Electronic devices can be distracting for students. You are welcome to use a computer or other electronic device to type notes during class. Lectures and discussion may not be recorded or taped. Nothing from this course may be posted online. Please do not use your device for personal reasons during class, and please be respectful of your classmates' learning experience.

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information.

**Intellectual Property:** Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams);
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the professor or used by the professor with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository). Permission from the instructor or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. Doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Petitions and Grievances](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. Check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Appeals](#).

**Note for students with disabilities:** [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

**Safety, Health and Counselling Services on Campus:** Your health, safety, and well-being are important. For a list of on campus services, please see <https://uwaterloo.ca/police/safety-resources>. If you are on campus in the evenings, please make use of the on and off campus shuttle service. More information about it can be found here - <https://uwaterloo.ca/police/shuttle-service>