Description: Welcome to HIST 313! This course will consider the 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. Other topics covered in this course include changing conventions of courtship and dating, marriage, divorce, parenthood, and childhood. Each of these topics will be studied in relation to particular time periods and places in order to reflect the changing nature of the family – something often thought of in rigid nostalgic terms. As we will discover in this course, the family varied historically and changes to it were intimately intertwined with wider social, cultural, economic, and political changes.

This course will provide students to the opportunity to conduct original archival research. This course combines lectures, an archival workshop, and discussions with a significant portion of the class dedicated to the discussion of readings, films, and lecture content. As such, this course has a substantial seminar component, which requires students to carry out close reading of texts each week as the basis for engaged discussion. It also includes a component where students will participate in a non-fiction ‘book club’. Students’ active and thoughtful participation based on course content, especially readings, is required for the successful completion of the course.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes: Your participation (engaged listening, note taking, reflection, speaking, critical thinking, and other modes) is essential to ensuring your own best learning experience. Please be an active participant in your own learning.

With regular class attendance, completion of course readings, participation in discussion, and diligent study, upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
A. Understand, evaluate, and critique some of the major theories and themes in the history of the family and understand the development of the field historiographically
B. Apply theories and methods from the history of family in their own reading of primary and secondary sources in critical analyses
C. Evaluate, synthesize, reflect on, and critique scholarly works in the history of family both orally and in writing
   *Reading and synthesizing a large quantity of written material is an important interdisciplinary skill you will acquire in this course
D. Interrogate some of the issues in the history of family and identify historical changes in ideas about family and marriage in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries
E. Prepare for and conduct archival research as well as report on ‘findings’ from archival research
F. Work collaboratively in small groups with other students and with a UW archivist to conduct and discuss archival research.
Assignments:
- Archive tour attendance
- Book review
- Research paper
- In-class participation

Required Text:
All readings are available on reserve with the SJU library, and most are available online. Copies of the books for the book club are also available for purchase in the UW Bookstore and are available on reserve in the SJU library. (Please do not purchase the books in advance of the class.) Primary sources will be distributed in class.

Book review selections (students are required to read one of the following):


