This seminar looks at the relationship between the family and the state in the early modern Atlantic. As a foundational social structure and a private, intimate experience, the family has been a subject of public scrutiny and state intervention. In this course we aim to account for both, critically engaging the complex and fraught notions of "family" and "state" as they mutually emerged in this period.

We take as our primary topical focus early modern Europe, the colonial Americas, and the Caribbean. We are respectful of the important histories of family in Europe, Africa, and the Americas before colonization, but we are primarily engaged, in this course, with how state-building and colonization proceeded to enfold family in situ.

This course is cognizant not only of the historical past, but, as always of the history of history itself and, in this case, the history of family history. We will begin with a quick look at histories of family in the 1970s and 1980s, before historians and other humanists became more fully engaged with intersecting questions about gender, sexuality, race, and imperialism, and then tour topics in the histories of family in Europe and North America, considering crucial questions of family in law, economy, religion and politics. We’ll then turn our full attention to the intersections of empire, race and family in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Course Reading

Course readings include books, articles and essays. Book chapters will be included as either links or PDFs on the Blackboard site; some journal article links to JSTOR will be posted as well, all under each week in the “content” section. We will also read the following books in their entirety:

Judith Bennett, History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism

Marisa J. Fuentes, Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive

Dhurba Ghosh, Sex and the Family in Colonial India

Jennifer Morgan, Laboring Women: Gender and Reproduction in New World Slavery

Ann Marie Plane, Colonial Intimacies: Indian Marriage in Early New England
Bianca Premo, *Children of the Father King: Youth, Authority and Legal Minority in Colonial Lima*

Lyndal Roper, *Holy Household: Women and Morals in Reformation Augsburg*

Claudio Saunt, *Black, White, and Indian: Race and the Unmaking of an American Family*

Francesca Trivellato, *The Familiarity of Strangers*

Ann Twinam, *Public Lives, Private Secrets: Gender, Honor, Sexuality and Illegitimacy in Colonial Spanish America*

Each student’s choice, one of the following:

Sarah Pearsall, *Atlantic Families*


**Course Requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<td>Paper # 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Paper # 2</td>
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The most important responsibility of each student in this course is to participate fully and productively in the work of the seminar. A seminar is an intellectual community—at least for the duration of the term, and hopefully beyond. Every seminar member must be committed to reading and engaging with the course materials. Having read the assigned material every person brings a useful perspective to the table, and must be willing to share it.

To further facilitate discussion in class, we will use Blackboard’s discussion forum. There, by 6PM of the Sunday preceding each class meeting, each student will post 2 questions. One of these should address what the poster deemed to be the most compelling or important point raised in the reading—this might take the form of quoted material from the texts with an accompanying comment, or a straightforward question for the seminar’s consideration. The second should be directed to how the source material is mobilized. If one of the course queries is about the relationship of family and state, then how do different authors employ different kinds of materials to best (or not) effect? (This second question foreshadows the work of the second paper.)
Course Schedule

Jan. 23  Atlantic/ family 1: How have histories of family in the Atlantic world emerged, and emerged as a body of scholarship? What are some of the key issues, angles, and sources?

[No class meeting—post online by Jan. 29 questions for Jan. 23 & Jan. 30]

Reading:


Jan. 30  Family History in the Stone Age: Thinking about the early, animating questions in family history, how they may have shaped the field, and why they may or may not have much traction now.

Reading:

1. Lawrence Stone, *The Family, Sex, and Marriage in England, 1500-1800*, Ch. 1-3, 6


Feb. 6  Atlantic Family 2: Who’s afraid of the Long Ago? And how do we source that?

Reading:

1. Judith Bennett, *History Matters*


Feb. 13  Family and the Theocratic State: How did religion function as a “state” in early modern Europe, and how significant was “family” for its claim to and exercise of authority?

Reading:

1. Lyndal Roper, *Holy Household*

2. Ulrike Strasser, *State of Virginity: Gender, Religion and Politics in and Early Modern Catholic State*, Intro., Ch. 3

Feb. 20  Political Languages of Family in England/ France

Reading:

1. Rachel Weil, *Political Passions: Gender, the Family and Political Argument in England, 1680-1714*, Intro., Ch. 3

2. Patricia Bonomi, *The Lord Cornbury Scandal: the Politics of Reputation in British America*  Ch 5-7


Feb 27  Family and the Merchant State

Reading:


Mar. 6  SPRING BREAK
Mar. 13 Family and Capitalism/ The (Family) Political Economy of Slavery

Reading:

1. Margaret Hunt, *The Middling Sort: Gender, Commerce and the Family in England, 1680-1780* (Chapters)


Mar. 20 Regulation of Marriage and Legitimacy in Colonial Americas

Reading:


Mar. 27 Colonial Politics of Reproduction (Papers due)

Reading:


2. Susan Klepp, *Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility, and Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820*, Intro., Ch. 1, Conclusion

Apr.  3     Economics and Economic History

Reading:

1. Hardwick, *Family Business*, Intro., Chapters 1 & 4, Epilogue

2. Ellen Hartigan O'Connor, *The Ties that Buy: Women and Commerce in Revolutionary America* Ch. 1 & 3


April 10     No Class

Apr.  17     Colonial Families and the Constitution of Race

Reading:

1. Durba Ghosh, *Sex and the Family in Colonial India*


Apr.  24

Reading:

1. Claudio Saunt, *Black, White, and Indian: Race and the Unmaking of an American Family*

   (either/ or):

1. Sarah Pearsall, *Atlantic Families*

2. Emma Rothschild, *The Inner Life of Empires*

May  8     **Final Papers Due**
**Paper Topics and Bibliographies**

**Paper 1**

See the syllabus for the due dates associated with the papers. You should select one of the below topics to explore in both papers. Your first paper will be historiographical, accounting fully for the issues raised in the selections listed below. I'll consider substitutions to these topical bibliographies, but substitutions should be the exception.

1. **Family Economies/ Economies of Family**
   A. Family Economic Organization
   - Amy Erickson, “Coverture and Capitalism” *History Workshop Journal* 59 (2005), 1-16

   B. Family and Economic Strategies
   - Marta Vicente, *Clothing the Spanish Empire: families and the calico trade in the early modern Atlantic World* (2006)
   - Francesa Trivellato, *The Familiarity of Strangers* (New Haven, 2009)

2. **History of Children/ Childhood**
   - Ondina Gonzalez and Bianca Premo eds., *Raising an Empire: Children in Early Modern Iberia and Colonial Latin America* (New Mexico UP, 2007)
3. Race, Identity and Legitimacy

Forum: Purity of Blood and the Social Order (articles by Guillaume Aubert and Maria Elena Martinez) WMQ July 2004

Maria Elena Martinez, Genealogical Fictions: Limpieza de Sangre, Religion and Gender in Colonial Mexico (2008)


Kathleen Brown, Good Wives, Nasty Wenches and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race and Power in Colonial Virginia (1996) [first half]

Annette Gordon-Reed, Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson: An American Controversy (1997)

4. Marriage
Patricia Seed, To Love, Honor, and Obey in Colonial Mexico: Conflicts Over Marriage Choice, 1574-1821 (Stanford University Press, 1988)

David Cook and Alexandra Noble Cook, Good Faith and Truthful Ignorance: a case of Transatlantic Bigamy (1991)

Jennifer Spear, Race, Sex and the Social Order in Early New Orleans (2008)

Kathleen Brown, Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs (second half)

Kathleen Duval, “Indian Intermarriage and Metissage in Colonial Louisiana”

John Garrigus, “To Establish a Community of Property: Marriage and Race Before and During the Haitian Revolution”

5. Production and Reproduction


Susan Klepp, Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility and Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820 (2009)

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, A Midwife’s Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on her Diary, 1785-1812 (1991)


6. Sex and Violence

Laura Gowing, “The Haunting of Susan Lay”


Trevor Burnard, Mastery, Tyranny and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and his Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World (Chapel Hill, 2003)

Sharon Block, Rape and Sexual Power in Early America (2006)

Daniels and Kennedy, Over the Threshold: Intimate Violence in Early America (1999)


7. Religion and family


Alan Greer, Mohawk Saint: Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits (2005)


Barry Levy, Quakers and the American Family: British Settlement in the Delaware Valley (1991)

Ramon Gutierrez, When Jesus Came the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846 (1991)


8. Families on “Frontiers”

Alida Metcalf, Family and Frontier in colonial Brazil (1992; rept Austin, 2005)


Rutman and Rutman, A Place in Time: Middlesex County, Virginia, 1650-1750 (1986)


Claudio Saunt, Black, White, and Indian: Race and the Unmaking of an American Family

9. Archival Production/ Silences

Special issue History of the Present “From Archives of Slavery to Liberated Futures” ed. By Brian Connolly and Marisa Fuentes, Fall 2016.


Paper 2:
The second paper will be based on a close reading of a single or handful of primary sources. A public document such as a court record, a tax record, a property deed or a will; a printed text such as a sermon, prescriptive literature of various kinds, travel accounts; or privately circulated manuscripts such as letters and diaries would all be good choices.

You may consult with me about the primary source selections. Printed sources are somewhat easier to access, but pose their own interpretive challenges. The special collections department at Swem may be able to able to point you to some items in their holdings. Other starting places include the many relevant databases available through Swem or digital collections at other libraries/archives.

Just a few among many databases/websites:
Early American Imprints (Swem)
Early English Books Online (Swem)
The Old Bailey, 1674-1913: http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/
Yale’s Avalon Project: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp
Connecticut Colonial Court Records: http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu/
Maryland Archives Online: http://www.msa.md.gov/megaf/lsa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/index.html
UNCG Digital Library on American Slavery: http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/about.aspx