HISTORY 490: SENIOR SEMINAR

Topic: History of the European Family

Professor Nicholas             4:00-5:15 MW
Spring, 2002 Sirrine 208

Required texts:

Students will also be required to read and be prepared to discuss in class—and use in term papers—other source readings and articles that are listed on this syllabus as CLE Reading #. These articles and sources can be accessed on the web: Go to MyCLE.Clemson.edu; then type in your userid and password. This will open a page with links to each of your classes. Keep going until you find the History 490 reserve folder. The articles and sources will also be available in hard copy on library reserve and in Professor Nicholas’ office.

Note that the assigned books and the materials placed on reserve contain bibliographies and end/footnotes that are useful sources for term papers. You will note that many of the reserved works are book chapters and/or are in collections of documents and articles. Other material in these volumes will be relevant for general questions of family history, and they should be helpful to you in identifying term paper topics and beginning research on them.

Course description

For numerous reasons that will be explored in this seminar, families before the twentieth century were able as institutions to exercise greater constraint on their individual members than their contemporary successors normally do. We will be less concerned with abstract typologies of “family” than with the practical impact of the diverse legal regimes of Europe, economic realities, and ethical and religious considerations on the evolution of family relationships and structures. Although some readings will concern women and children specifically, the family will be studied not solely in terms of its component parts, but also as a nuclear and extended kin unit and how it functioned in relation to the state, community, and other families, for example through marriage strategies.

The seminar is being structured broadly, both chronologically and topically, to give maximum latitude to students to explore topics of special interest to themselves. The first weeks of the course will be devoted to discussion of the assigned core readings, which include both secondary literature and original sources in English translation. The class meetings will examine broad trends and in some cases theories of family evolution, but the focus will be on training students in the use and interpretation of original documents in preparation for working on their research papers.
As the major project for the seminar, students will write research papers of 20-25 pages, based on the interpretation of original documents as well as the application of relevant secondary literature. Choice of the topic in principle rests with the student, but under the guidance of the professor, whose approval is required before work is begun on the paper. 

_Students who wish to write on topics that are outside Professor Nicholas’s main areas of competence are encouraged to avail themselves of the expertise of other faculty members; for in such cases, the approval of the Clemson professor whose field includes that of the research topic is also required._ The last two weeks of the course will be devoted to students presenting their own papers and reading and doing critiques of the work of their classmates. We will determine the mechanics of getting papers to other members of the seminar after final enrollment is determined.

**Determination of course grade**

Your grade in the seminar will be based on class participation (30 per cent), first version of the paper and preliminary bibliography (10 per cent), second version of the draft and oral presentation of it to the class (20 per cent), and final paper (40 per cent).

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. Accumulation of three unexcused absences (for excused absences, see below) will result in a grade of F for the course.

It is your responsibility to be present, participate in class discussion, and take notes. If for _any_ reason--excused or unexcused--you must be absent, you should either send someone to take notes for you or arrange to borrow those of another member of the class (lending notes, however, is an act of generosity and is _not_ mandatory).

Reasons for an excused absence:

a. Illness or injury serious enough to send you to a physician.

b. The funeral or life-threatening illness or injury of a member of the immediate family, defined as spouse, children, siblings, parents, or grandparents.

c. Students who are on scholarships and/or other grants-in-aid overseen by the University Scholarships and Awards Committee who can document that the terms of their scholarships require their participation in events or activities that conflict with the time of a schedule examination or other written exercise.

d. While there may be other circumstances that could justify an excused absence, such decisions are solely at the professor=s discretion. You _must_ clear these with him _before_ cutting the class and/or missing a written assignment or examination.

**Professor's Office Hours (Holtzendorff 208):**

MW 2:00-4:00. Hours are available Thursday by appointment.
Telephone: 656-5377 (office); 654-9309 (home); e-mail nichold@clemson.edu.
Web site: [http://www.clemson.edu/~nichold/dnhome.html](http://www.clemson.edu/~nichold/dnhome.html)
Basic books that you will need for core readings and for your term papers

The following works have been placed on one-day reserve in the Clemson Library, if the Library owns a copy. Call numbers are given below. The Library does not have a regrettably large number of these works. Where “Not in CU Library” is indicated below, Professor Nicholas owns a copy that can be used in his office, which will be turned into a closed one-day reserve for members of this seminar. Professor Nicholas also owns some of the books that have been placed on reserve; you should use his personal copies of these works only when for some reason you cannot get the university’s copy. Other books of relevance to the history of the family, and not listed on the bibliography below, are also included in this reserve. When Professor Nicholas is not on campus, seminar members may obtain a key to his office from the secretarial personnel in the History Department office, Holtzendorff 110. The books for use in the seminar are in alphabetical (by author or editor) order on the bottom four shelves of the bookcase on the left as one enters his office. Check-out slips will be in plain view on his desk. Fill out one per book and leave it on the desk. When you return the book, no later than the next day, indicate time of return on the slip. Return the key to the secretary immediately. Seminar members are expected to use extreme care in utilizing Professor Nicholas’s library: no marks in the books, no broken spines, etc.

As is obvious from the preceding paragraph, the Clemson University Library is not a major resource for the study of family history (read: just about anything except US Southern History). Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that you obtain a borrower’s card at the University of Georgia Library, which is mercifully generous with borrower’s privileges and is only an hour and a half from Clemson. Stop by the Circulation Desk of the Clemson Library and get a letter of introduction before you go.


Linda A. Pollock, Forgotten Children. Parent-Child Relations from 1500 to 1900. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983. HQ767.87 .P64 1983. This book has a most useful bibliography, pp. 272-288 and 296-334, of works on the history of children and childhood. Unfortunately, it is confined to English and American sources, and the American family is not included in the topic of this seminar.


Eva Cantarella, *Pandora’s Daughters. The Role and Status of Women in Greek and Roman Antiquity.* HQ1134 .C3513 1987


Barbara C. Halporn (ed. and transl.), *The Correspondence of Johann Amerbach. Early Printing in Its Social Context*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2001. This is so new that neither CU nor Professor Nicholas has it, but it contains material on family relations.

Periodicals and Bibliographies:

A list of journals that include material on family history would include virtually all historical and anthropological periodicals currently in print. You should certainly check such standards as *The Journal of Modern History, Speculum, American Historical Review, Revue Historique, English Historical Review, Journal of Interdisciplinary History, Historische Zeitschrift*, and *Annales. Économies. Sociétés. Civilisations*. The history of the family is nonetheless a relatively new discipline, and one periodical is of particular significance:

*Journal of Family History*. Available at the University of Georgia Library in continuous series since 1976, HQ503 .J67. Clemson subscribes to it on the internet since 1999: [www.ingenta.com](http://www.ingenta.com). The *JFH* is an excellent place to start for ideas for your term papers and to get a sense of the sorts of issues that are concerning family historians.

The *JFH* also has an ongoing bibliographical project: *History of the family and kinship: a select international bibliography*, which is in the CU Library (Reference Room, Z7164 .M2 H57).

*Journal of Social History*. Continuous series since 1967 at CU Library. HN1 .J86s. Although less directly *a propos* to family history than the *Journal of Family History*, this periodical has excellent articles and bibliographies.

*Medieval Prosopography*. This journal is not at CU, but the University of Georgia carries it, and Professor Nicholas has copies of several issues, which can be used on the same terms as the books that he has placed on closed reserve in his office. Prosopography refers to historical work describing an individual’s or group’s career and family connections. Some papers in this journal are on rather minute topics, but they give an excellent idea of current directions in family research and may give students inspirations for paper topics.

CU and other Libraries maintain bibliographies, in some cases on-line, in others in printed version, of broad subject areas that include family history. To avoid making this syllabus impossibly complex, I am simply listing here Anne Echols and Marty Williams, *An Annotated Index of Medieval Women* (New York: M. Wiener, 1992), Reference CT 3220 .A56 1992; and *International Medieval Bibliography*, Reference Z 6203 .J63. Simply use search engines in the library or on-line, or ask a librarian for help in finding sources in topic areas of special interest to you.
Schedule of Assignments

**Note well:** All students should visit Professor Nicholas in his office hours or through appointment to discuss a term paper topic and get preliminary suggestions for bibliography. The deadline for obtaining approval of the topic and a provisional bibliography is **Monday, January 28**.

Wed., Jan. 9: Introduction to the course

Mon., Jan. 14: **Common features of European family life.**

Wed., Jan. 16: **Greek and Roman families**


Wed., Jan. 23. **We will meet in the Library, in the “smart classroom,”** on the third floor. Priscilla Munson, the history librarian, will explain to you what resources are available to you for research, how to use research tools, including the internet, and describe the Cooper Library’s collections.

After Ms. Munson’s presentation, we will adjourn to the classroom to continue our discussion of issues involving the Greek and Roman families.

Mon., Jan. 28: **The impact of Christianity on the late Roman family.**

**Due January 28:** By this time each of you should have identified a topic area for your research paper, consulted with Professor Nicholas about it and obtained his approval, **obtained the approval of the professor in whose chronological area of expertise the topic falls if that is not Professor Nicholas**, and assembled a preliminary bibliography.

Wed., Jan. 30: **The family in late antiquity and the early Middle Ages**

Mon., Feb. 4: **The family in the early and central Middle Ages.**


Mon., Feb. 11: The demographic approach to European family history.


Mon., Feb. 18: A) General introduction to the modern period


B) The Family in Reformation and Counter-Reformation


Wed., Feb. 20: Northern and Southern, rural and urban families


Wed., Feb. 27: Sexuality, marital relations, and the European family

Due February 27: First draft of paper due, with written indication of research yet to be done.

Mon., March 4: The European family in the age of industrialization and the family wage economy

Wed., March 6: Modernization and the European family.

Mon., March 11: *The family since 1918: prospective and retrospective*

Wed., March 13: Summary discussion of themes of the ancient and medieval parts of the course, and comparative discussion of the core readings.


Mon., March 25: Summary discussion of themes of the modern parts of the course, and comparative discussion of the core readings.

Wed., March 27: Research and consultation with Professor Nicholas and other faculty members with expertise in the area of the term paper. Professor Nicholas will be in his office during both his regular office hours and during the period when class normally meets.

Mon., April 1: Research and consultation with Professor Nicholas and other faculty members with expertise in the area of the term paper. Professor Nicholas will be in his office during both his regular office hours and during the period when class normally meets.

Wed., April 3: Research and consultation with Professor Nicholas and other faculty members with expertise in the area of the term paper. Professor Nicholas will be in his office during both his regular office hours and during the period when class normally meets.

Mon., April 8: Research and consultation with Professor Nicholas and other faculty members with expertise in the area of the term paper. Professor Nicholas will be in his office during both his regular office hours and during the period when class normally meets.

Wed., April 10: Second draft of papers due to Professor Nicholas. He will return them by Friday, April 12 to students whose papers are being presented during the following week.

Mon., April 15: Presentation of papers
Wed., April 17: Presentation of papers
Mon., April 22: Presentation of papers
Wed., April 24: Presentation of papers

**Final papers are due to Professor Nicholas by noon, Wednesday, May 1**