The nineteenth century in America was a period of crisis and transition in marriage, family life, and sex roles—a period strikingly similar to our own in many respects. Nineteenth-century Americans experienced a series of disruptive changes as the United States moved from a pre-industrial to an industrial economy, expanded dramatically in size and population, and developed new intellectual and social patterns. Such changes placed special strains on traditional forms of family and community life. Many individuals came to feel that the family as they had known it was threatened and must undergo major changes if it were not to be destroyed.

After briefly highlighting some larger perspectives on the history of the family and on family life in colonial America, this course will focus primarily on three different responses to the perceived crisis in family life and sex roles in 19th-century America. First we shall look at utopian alternatives to marriage, especially as reflected in the unorthodox Oneida "free love" community and similar groups. Next we shall investigate mainstream ideals of family life and sex roles, as found in Victorian American novels, medical literature, advice manuals, and similar sources. Then we shall look at efforts to expand women's participation in the larger society, as reflected in the women's rights movement and the purity crusades. Finally, we shall turn to the present to explore the complex contemporary issues and concerns about the family since World War II.

Evaluation in the course will be based on three mid-term exams (indicated below in the "outline") on class participation, on a book review or similar project, and on a final comprehensive exam. The exams will be based both on the readings and on the lecture/discussions. The required readings are found in:

- Articles available through on-line Library reserve
- Lawrence Foster, Women, Family, and Utopia: Communal Experiments of the Shakers, The Oneida Community, and the Mormons
- Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, Rereading Sex: Battles over Sexual Knowledge and Suppression in Nineteenth-Century America
- Alice S. Rossi, ed., The Feminist Papers
- Stephanie Coontz, The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap

The class sessions will combine both lecture and discussion. Since the required readings provide only a taste of the extensive literature about these issues, each student will be expected to find a book on a topic related to the course that interests them and write a 6-to-10-page review of it. The book a student chooses to review must be approved in advance, in consultation with the professor. More detailed instructions about the book reviews will be provided in class.
Area E Approved Learning Outcome:

Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.

Explain how the course satisfies the learning outcome:

This course will focus on how family, marriage, and sexual patterns have changed in America from colonial times to the present, both influencing and being influenced by broader changes American society. Students will learn how social, political, and economic forces impact social behavior by learning how divergent patterns of family life developed in colonial America; how three different responses to the perceived crisis in family life, marriage, and sex roles developed in mid-nineteenth-century America in the counter-cultural Oneida Community, in the mainstream Victorian literature emphasizing domesticity for women, and in woman's rights efforts to expand women's roles beyond home sphere; and how issues and concerns about the family, marriage, and sexual expression have changed between World War II and the present. Students will demonstrate that they have met the Area E learning outcomes through four written examinations; five brief written exercises about specific assigned readings; in-class discussions; and a 6-10 page analytical book review that integrate course concepts and materials from the readings.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding of important comparative perspectives on changing patterns of family life, sexuality, and gender roles since about 1500 in Western Europe and in America.

2. Students will demonstrate their understanding the complex social, economic, and political factors that led many people in the young United States during the 1830s and 1840s to explore alternative approaches to marriage, family life, and sexuality, using the controversial Oneida Community as a case study.

3. Students will demonstrate how and why mainstream approaches toward marriage, family life, and women's roles developed by the mid-1850s stressing women's domesticity and sexual self-control for both sexes by exploring mainstream medical and advice literature such as the writings of Catharine Beecher.

4. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the reasons why some critics of mainstream America's stress on restricting women to the home sphere, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, sought to expand women's participation to the world beyond the home during the mid-to-late 19th-century.

5. Students will demonstrate their grasp of the social, economic, and political factors that helped to produce major changes in marriage, family life, and gender roles in America between World War II and the present.
6. Students will demonstrate their ability to compare and contrast the differences in marriage, family life, and gender roles in (1) the colonial America, (2) 19th century America, and (3) post-World War II America.

7. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of some of the most important economic, social, and political challenges American families have faced from colonial times to the present, as well as the diverse ways in which family life, marriage, and sex roles have changed in response to different patterns of ethnicity, race, and economic status in America.

Please Take Careful Note of the Following:

Students are expected to attend class regularly, come on time at the scheduled beginning of each class (no later than 12:05 p.m.), and be ready to participate in class discussions on the assigned readings. Exceptions will be made for students who have to come from classes across campus.

More than 6 unexcused absences (2 weeks of the course) may be grounds for reduction in the student's overall course grad by as much as one full level (10 points).

Throughout the course, all students are expected to follow the Georgia Tech Honor Code.

Outline of Class Topics, Assignments, and Exams:
(For specific reading assignments, consult the class-by-class reading assignment sheet.)

I. Introduction to the Study of the Family, Sexuality, and Social Change
   August 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29

   Readings: Interview with Philippe Aries
   Stephanie Coontz, "Where are the Good Old Days?"
   Edward Shorter, "Illegitimacy, Sexual Revolution, and Social Change in Modern Europe"
   Edmund S. Morgan, "The Puritans and Sex"
   Barbara Welter, "The Cult of True Womanhood, 1820-1860"

   NO CLASS: Monday, September 1--Labor Day holiday
II. Communitarian Critiques of Victorianism: The Oneida Community and Others  
September 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24  
Readings: Lawrence Foster, "A New Heaven and a New Earth: The Millennial  
Impulse and the Creation of Alternative Family Systems"  
Lawrence Foster, Women, Family, and Utopia: Communal Experiments of  
the Shakers, The Oneida Perfectionists, and the Mormons (selections)  

EXAM #1 on Topics I and II--Friday, September 26

III. The Victorian Mainstream: Ideal and Reality  
September 29; October 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 15, 17, 20  
Readings: John S. Haller and Robin M. Haller, The Physician and Sexuality in  
Victorian America, chapter 3  
Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, Rereading Sex (selections)  
Carl N. Degler, "What Ought to be and What Was: Women's Sexuality  
in the Nineteenth Century"  
Christine Stansell, "Women, Children, and the Use of the Streets"  

NO CLASS: Monday, October 13--Georgia Tech Mid-Fall Break  

EXAM #2 on Topic III--Wednesday, October 22

IV. Militant Victorians: Woman's Rights and the Purity Crusades  
October 24, 27, 29, 31; November 3, 5, 7  
Readings: Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, Rereading Sex (selections)  
Alice S. Rossi, ed., The Feminist Papers (selections)  

EXAM #3 on Topic IV--Monday, November 10

V. Contemporary Issues in the American Family. Sex Roles, and Sexuality  
November 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26; December 1, 3, 5  
Reading: Stephanie Coontz, The Way We Never Were: American Families and  
the Nostalgia Trap (entire)  

BOOK REVIEWS due--Wednesday, November 19  
NO CLASS: Friday, November 28--Happy Thanksgiving!  
FINAL EXAM--Wednesday, December 10, 11:30 a.m.
HTS 3019 -- American Family
Lawrence Foster -- Fall 2014
READING ASSIGNMENTS:

August 18--begin Aries interview
August 20--begin Coontz, "Where are the Good Old Days?"
August 22--begin Shorter, "Illegitimacy, Sexual Revolution, and Social Change in Modern Europe"
August 25--begin Morgan, "The Puritans and Sex"
August 27--begin Welter, "Cult of True Womanhood"
August 29--begin Foster, "A New Heaven and a New Earth: The Millennial Impulse and the Creation of Alternative Family Systems"

NO CLASS: Monday, September 1--Labor Day holiday

September 3--begin Foster, Women, Family, and Utopia, chapter 5 (pp. 75-90)
September 5/8--begin "Bible Argument Defining the Relations of the Sexes in the Kingdom of Heaven" in Foster, ed., Free Love in Utopia, pp. 295-335
September 10--begin Women, Family, and Utopia, chapter 6 (pp. 91-102)
September 12--begin Women, Family, and Utopia, chapter 7 (pp. 103-120)
September 15--begin Women, Family, and Utopia, chapter 2 (pp. 17-42)
September 17-- begin Women, Family, and Utopia, chapter 8 (pp. 123-169)
September 19--begin Women, Family, and Utopia, chapters 10 and 11 (pp. 182-219)
September 22--begin Women, Family, and Utopia, chapter 12 (pp. 223-238)
September 24--review for EXAM #1

EXAM #1--Friday, September 26

*September 26-- review Welter, "Cult of True Womanhood"
September 29/October 1--begin John and Robin Haller, The Physician and Sexuality in Victorian America, chapter 3 (pp. 89-137)
October 3--begin Horowitz, Rereading Sex, chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-44)
October 6--begin Rereading Sex, chapter 3 (pp. 45-69)
October 8--begin Rereading Sex, chapter 4 (pp. 70-85)
October 10--begin Rereading Sex, chapter 5 (pp. 86-122)

NO CLASS: Monday, October 13--Georgia Tech Mid-Semester Break

October 15--begin Degler, "What Ought to be and What Was: Women's Sexuality in the 19th Century"
October 17-- begin Stansell, "Women, Children, and the Use of the Streets"
October 20-- Review for EXAM #2

EXAM #2--Wednesday, October 22
October 24--begin Rereading Sex, chapter 7 (pp. 144-158) and chapter 15 (pp. 342-357)
October 27--begin Rereading Sex, chapters 16 and 17 (pp. 358-403)
October 29--begin Rossi, ed., Feminist Papers, pp. 241-281
October 31--begin Feminist Papers, pp. 282-322
November 3--begin Feminist Papers, pp. 378-406
November 5--begin Feminist Papers, pp. 407-430
November 7--review for EXAM #3

EXAM #3 --Monday, November 10

November 12-begin Coontz, The Way We Never Were, pp. x-xxix, 1-41

November 13/17--work on Book Reviews

BOOK REVIEWS due: Wednesday, November 19

November 21--begin The Way We Never Were, pp. 42-92
November 24--begin The Way We Never Were, pp. 93-121
November 26--begin The Way We Never Were, pp. 122-179

NO CLASS: Friday, November 28--Happy Thanksgiving holiday!

December 1--begin The Way We Never Were, pp. 180-231
December 3--begin The Way We Never Were, pp. 232-288
December 5--review for FINAL EXAM

FINAL EXAM -- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 11:30 a.m.