AMERICAN LOVE AND MARRIAGE

AMST 124b Fall 2016
Block: 2:00-3:20 Tu/Th in Kutz Hall 132
Prof. McGinity
Brown Office Room 326
Office Hours: Tuesdays noon-2:00 and by appointment
Kerenm@Brandeis.edu

COURSE NARRATIVE

This course will examine changing ideals and practices relating to courtship (dating), sex, love, cohabitation, marriage and divorce from the colonial period to the present. Romantic relationships and marriage between people with different ethno-religious backgrounds, and between whites and people of color, will be the main vehicle for examining religion, ethnicity, class, and race. The course is designed to explore how gender roles, domestic labor and family organization, sexual mores, generations, ethnic, religious, and racial differences influence social patterns, shape public policies and private lifestyles, and contribute to cultural production. It will incorporate analysis of popular culture by considering how interfaith, interethnic, and interracial relationships were portrayed over time on television and in films and music. While this course places emphasis on Jewish/Gentile intermarriage, students will have the opportunity to explore other relationships according to their individual interests.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• To become familiar with ideals, behaviors, discourse and debates about love, sex, and marriage in American public and private life. To examine and analyze how communities and state shape public policies and ideals around marriage and family. To understand how private behavior has been shaped by and also given rise to changing ideals about love and policies about marriage.

• To understand how large social issues such as antisemitism, ethnocentrism, segregation, sexism, and identity politics influence life on both national and personal levels.

• To identify how contextual factors such as immigration trends, World Wars the civil rights, feminist, and fatherhood movements influenced the meaning and experiences of love across religious, ethnic, and racial lines.

• To use a variety of sources to analyze the changing contours of social and cultural history relating to love, sex, and marriage. Primary sources may include autobiographies, letters, essays, and novels) and secondary accounts written by historians, sociologists, and other contemporary observers. Television, film, and web-based material will also be utilized when relevant.
REQUIRED READING

Books available at the bookstore and on library reserve

Beth Bailey, *From Front Porch to Back Seat: Courtship in Twentieth Century America*

Nancy Cott, *Public Vows: A History of Marriage and the Nation*

Barbara Ehrenreich, *The Hearts of Men: American Dreams and the Flight from Commitment*

Helen Horowitz and Kathy Peiss, *Love Across the Color Line*

Keren McGinity, *Marrying Out: Jewish Men, Intermarriage, and Fatherhood*

Annie Proulx, *Brokeback Mountain*

Jessica Weiss, *To Have and to Hold: Marriage, the Baby Boom & Social Change*

Articles and Documents available on LATTE

Films

*Adam’s Rib* (1949)

*Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?* (1967)

*The Way We Were* (1973)

*Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979)

*Keeping the Faith* (2000)

*My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (2002)

*The Kids Are Alright* (2010)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Class participation: 25 percent
- Research Paper: 25 percent
- In-class midterm: 20 percent
- Response papers (2): 10 percent
- Final Exam (take home): 20 percent
Class participation
Active class participation is a crucial component of this course. In order to actively participate, students are required to a) attend class regularly; b) read the assignment(s) in advance; c) be prepared to offer opinions and analysis. Note taking is encouraged for both participation purposes and exam preparation. More than two unexcused absences affects grade.

Research Paper (8-10 pp. 12 pt. font, 1” margins)
The research paper allows students to explore a topic of interest regarding American love (sex) and marriage either by deepening one the course covers or developing a unique topic. Students will be guided how to develop a thesis, articulate an argument, and properly document source material. The paper must incorporate both primary and secondary sources. These may include personal interviews; social surveys; articles in scholarly journals and popular magazines; social media; newspapers, and popular culture. Internet sources are allowed provided they do not account for the majority of materials.

Research Paper Deadlines:
1) One-paragraph topic proposal due: \textbf{Oct. 13}
2) Outline and working bibliography due: \textbf{Nov. 8}
3) Final draft due (no exceptions): \textbf{Dec. 6}

Response Papers (2-3 pp. each, 12 pt. font, 1” margins)
Two brief papers that analyze one of the films available on Latte (or another film with the instructor’s approval) and one of the lectures. Both papers must incorporate relevant course reading material. \textbf{Due: Sept. 22 and Nov. 15.}

Midterm
The exam will consist of two parts. The first will ask students to identify and briefly analyze excerpts from primary source readings. The second will provide two essay questions and students must respond to one of them. One page of notes will be allowed.

Take-home Final Exam
The exam will consists of two essay questions relating to course materials since the midterm. Students must respond to both questions, which will be distributed one week in advance. \textbf{Due: Dec. 13 in Brown Office at 2:00 p.m.}

Special Needs
A student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis who wishes to have a reasonable accommodation made in this course should let the instructor know prior to the first assignment.

Plagiarism and Cheating
All student work must be original. Ideas and quotations from the writings and thoughts of other people must be properly acknowledged by using foot or endnotes.

Electronic Devices
All phones, tablets, laptops, pagers, etc., must be off or asleep during class meetings.
CLASS TOPICS & SCHEDULE

Th. Aug. 25  Introduction; syllabus review
             READ: Stephanie Evans, “Interdisciplinary Love Studies”
             http://popularromanceproject.org/interdisciplinary-love-studies/
             “Why Marriage Matters”
             MUSIC: “Sugar” (Adam Levine)

Tu. Aug. 30  From Traditional Marriage to the Dawn of the “Modern Age”
             Lecture: Antiradicalism
             READ: Cott, Intro. and Chapter 1
             MUSIC: “Drive By” (Train)

Thu. Sept. 1  Love and Marriage in the Colonial Era
             Lecture: Film History
             READ: Laws of New Haven; Rolf and Pocahontas; Greenblum, “Does
             Hollywood Still Glorify Intermarriage?”
             MUSIC: “Marry Me” (Train)

Tu. Sept. 6  Revolutionary Love and Marriage
             Lecture: Females Are Born, Women Are Made
             READ: Benjamin Franklin; Letters of John and Abigail Adams
             Cott, Ch. 2
             MUSIC: “Take My Hand” (Emily Hackett & Will Anderson)

Th. Sept. 8  Brandeis Monday: No AMST 124b

Tu. Sept. 13 The Cult of Domesticity; Nineteenth Century Sexuality
             READ: Smith-Rosenberg, “The Female World of Love and Ritual;” Alcott,
             MUSIC: “Night Moves” (Bob Seeger)

Th. Sept. 15 Romantic Utopias: Dystopias?
             Lecture: Early Intermarrriage
             READ: Families in Utopia; Fruitlands; Schiffman, “Generation J”
             MUSIC: “Love in an Elevator” (Aerosmith)

Tu. Sept. 20 Feminist Protests
             READ: “The Declaration of Rights and Sentiments;” Blackwell/Stone Marriage
             Contract; The Feminist Alternative; Gilman, The Yellow Wallpaper
             MUSIC: “Contract on Love” (Stevie Wonder)
Th. Sept. 22  The Abuses of Marriage
READ: Glaspell, “A Jury of Her Peers;” The Dark Side of Victorian Marriage;
Gupta, “What Is Indian About You?”
DUE: Response paper #1
MUSIC: “You’re Beautiful” (James Blunt)

Tu. Sept. 27  Slavery and Its Aftermath
Lecture: Jumping the Broom
READ: Hunter, “Putting an Antebellum Myth to Rest;” Civil War Letter
MUSIC: “When I Fall in Love” (Nat King Cole)

Th. Sept. 29  Crossing Race and Class Boundaries
READ: Horowitz and Peiss, *Love Across the Color Line*
MUSIC: “Across the Lines” (Tracy Chapman)

Tu. Oct. 4  No Class: Rosh Hashanah

Th. Oct. 6  Lecture: Interracial Sex, Love, and Boxing
READ: McGinity, *Marrying Out*, Intro, Ch. 1 & 2;
Pascoe, “Miscegenation Law, Court Cases, and Ideologies of ‘Race’ in
Twentieth-Century America”
MUSIC: “Brown Sugar” (Rolling Stones)

Tu. Oct. 11  No Class: Erev Yom Kippur

Th. Oct. 13  Guest Lecture by Lisa Fishbayn: Jewish and Islamic Law
“Boston Marriage;” Masculinity in Crisis; Companionate Marriage
Love”
DUE: Research paper proposal

Tu. Oct. 18  From Rating and Dating to Going Steady
Lecture: Prime Time
READ: Bailey, *From Front Porch to Back Seat;* McGinity, *Marrying Out* Ch. 4
MUSIC: “Tonight’s the Night” (Rod Stewart)

Lecture: Desegregation
READ: Weiss, *To Have and To Hold*
MUSIC: “Feel Like Makin’ Love” (Bad Company)

Tu. Oct. 25  Brandeis Monday: No AMST 124b

Th. Oct. 27  Midterm Exam
Tu. Nov. 1  Rebellious Women
Lecture: Feminism

Th. Nov. 3  Rebel Men
Lecture: Migrating Men’s Identities
READ: Ehrenreich, *The Hearts of Men*
MUSIC: “I Want You (She’s So Heavy)” (The Beatles)

Tu. Nov. 8  Rising Rates
Lecture: “Other” Women
DUE: Research Paper Outline and Bibliography
MUSIC: “Light My Fire” (The Doors)


Tu. Nov. 15  Guest Lecture by Jonathan Krasner: Same-Sex Marriage
READ: Pascoe, “Gay Marriage and Miscegenation;” Look at “Same Sex Marriage, Civil Unions, and Domestic Partnerships”
DUE: Response paper #2

MUSIC: “Same Love” (Macklemore)

Tu. Nov. 22  Lecture: How Much Is That Body?
MUSIC: “Power of Love” (Celine Dion)

Th. Nov. 24  No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!

Tu. Nov. 29  Love in the Post-Modern World
MUSIC: “Can You Feel the Love Tonight?” (Elton John)
Th. Dec. 1 The Future of Marriage?
Lecture: December Dilemma
MUSIC: “All I Want for Christmas” Not by Mariah Carey (Parody)

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Tu. Dec. 6 LAST CLASS:
DUE: Research Papers.
DISTRIBUTE: Take-home final exam questions.

Th. Dec. 8 No Class: Study Day

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Tu. Dec. 13 Final Exam Due: Brown Office by 2:00 p.m.