This course combines topics and theory found in the academic subdiscipline of family history with public approaches to family heritage. The concepts of family and childhood have varied over time, reflecting shifts in culture, economy, and power relations. We will pay special attention to the role of gender in shaping family experiences. Students will write short research papers and engage in a project to develop community interests in the history of past family life beyond their own ancestors.

Readings (don’t buy yet):
Coontz, Stephanie. *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap*
Hall, Jacqueline Dowd. *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World*
Labour, Anya. *Major Problems in the History of American Families and Children*
Rosas, Ana. *Abrazando El Espíritu: Bracero Families Confront the US-Mexico Border*
Griswold, Robert. *Fatherhood in America*