Professor McEnaney
Modern Family – History 211
Spring 2013

Final Project Guidelines

This project gives you the opportunity to tell your own family story, but in a non-traditional format. The digital story will be your main task, and it will enable you to merge our course material with a family history of your own. Your learning objectives are several: to research and summarize relevant historical material on your topic; to construct a compelling story that is both creative and grounded in historical sources; to construct a clear and concise narrative essay; to compose a "visual essay" that captures the main ideas in your narrative.

Project Requirements

Identify a research question from one of our three topics (courtship, marriage, birth), and "answer" it by reading and reflecting on secondary sources. Your topic may come from your own family experience (why was my grandmother born at home?) or it might be something you are curious about (how did the automobile revolutionize dating?). Either way, you will be expected to take your specific case study and place it in its appropriate historical context.

In addition to composing a digital story, you are responsible for submitting an annotated bibliography that summarizes your research in the secondary sources. You will be required to read four scholarly articles on your topic (from history journals, primarily, such as the *Journal of Family History*, the *Journal of American History*, the *Journal of Women's History*, and the like). These articles should both engage your topic and show some relationship with one of our course texts (Bailey, Cott, Leavitt).

Finally, you will be expected to give a five-minute presentation that explains your interest in your topic/question and summarizes your findings. You will use this short talk to set up your film.

Ideally, a good digital story, annotated bibliography, and short presentation will reveal your engagement with the course's essential questions and concepts.

Getting to Work

First, remember that we have posted materials on Moodle that explain the basic elements of a digital story. In addition, presentations by our library staff will guide your bibliographic research, along with the composition of the narrative, visual, and musical elements of your story.

Second, start your journal research now so that you get a sense of the available sources. I want you to use historical journals, but I will allow sociological or anthropological material, if necessary. For guidance on how to prepare an annotated bibliography, see Purdue University's writing website:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/

Finally, start thinking now about ideal images: you will need some combination of family photographs, internet images, and perhaps even primary source materials. (Advertisements from magazines, for example, can be found in our library. We have *Parents'* magazine issues dating back to 1929!)

Final Details
Your digital story script length should be no more than two pages, so you will need to convey big ideas with economy (versus "padding" a paper to inflate its importance). Further, each entry in your annotated bibliography should be one page—no longer. I will evaluate your final project for its engagement of course themes, its writing quality, and its visual creativity.

You may use either the MLA format or the Chicago Style, but the citations must be accurate. Any evidence of plagiarism will yield an automatic F for the essay, a forfeiture of your digital short, and a possible failure of the class.

Deadlines

Monday, April 8:	Preliminary Bibliography due (Chicago or MLA Style)
Monday, April 15:	Sign up for your spot to present!
Dates TBA:	Modern Family Film Festival!
Monday, May 13:	Digital story script, annotated bibliography, and digital short film due by 5:00 p.m. I will not accept an electronic copy of your bibliography, nor will I accept a late submission of any of this material.