

Week 2 History of the Family Class Activity

Small Group discussions:

Students will get into groups of 3-5 and discuss the following questions. Elect a note-taker to take notes on the discussion for the group. After your discussion, select 3-4 key points for each of the questions. Be prepared to share your key points with the class. Also be prepared to have your note-taker turn in his/her notes to the professor.

1. What is the traditional/stereotypical image of family life in the pre-industrial U.S? What stereotypes may contribute to the belief that eighteenth and nineteenth century family life was better than contemporary family life?
2. Consider the implications of arranged marriages and parental control over mate selection? Think about what it would be like if their parents controlled your dating behavior. What are some pro's and con's of this practice?
3. Contrast the relationship between husbands and wives in the emergent industrialized family with their relationship in pre-industrial times? How about relationships with other family members? What are the advantages and disadvantages here?
4. Contrast social assumptions about children in the emergent industrialized era with ideas about in pre-industrial times? How does that compare with out attitudes about parenting today?
5. What are the primary functions of families during the industrial era? How do they differ from functions of families in the pre-industrial period? How about contemporary families?
6. How do you think behaviors and attitudes about families in the past have shaped contemporary families? How have these historical practices shaped your own family?