Perspectives on the Individual, the Family and Social Institutions

Fall 2013

Lloyd Cohen

Syllabus

The vast majority of the readings for this course are chapters from over a dozen books. Given the expense of having you purchase them and the copyright difficulty of getting permission and paying for duplicating all these materials and the limited number of students in the class, I have chosen to place multiple copies of the material on reserve in the library. All are available on 2 hour and overnight reserve.

Your grade will be determined by two components: (1) a paper (80%); and (2) class room performance including leading the discussion on specific topics, participating in discussion led by other students and myself, and attendance (20%).

I will lecture on and lead the discussion on the first topic heading below. After that each of you must choose one or more of the topic headings to lead the discussion. All readings listed in **boldface** are the responsibility of everyone to read. All other readings should be read by the presenter(s), and discussed if appropriate.

1. **The Law and Economics of Marriage and Divorce**

Read the third and fourth article as well as either of the first two articles.


Lloyd Cohen, *The 20th Century Decline in the Private Cost to Women of*
Non-Marital Sex: Causes and Consequences

Martha A. Fineman, “Masking Dependency: the Political Role of Family Rhetoric”, 81 Va. L. Rev. 2181-2215 (1995) (HeinOnline) (Do not read unless you wish to learn what I was responding to in the article above.)

2. Sexual Relations


Maggie Gallagher, Enemies of Eros, pp. 3-54, 191-217 (Bonus Books 1989)

Stephanie Coontz, Marriage A History: How Love Conquered Marriage (Viking 2005) (pages to be determined)

Paul Hollander, Extravagant Expectations, (Dee 2011) (pages to be determined)

Geoff Dench, Transforming Men, XI-24 (Transaction 1996)

Maggie Gallagher, The Abolition of Marriage, Chapters 1, 2, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20 (Regnery 1996)

Linda Waite and Maggie Gallagher, The Case for Marriage, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 8, 13, 14 (Doubleday 2000)

3. Modern Problems of Fatherhood

David Blackenhorn, Fatherless America, pp. 1-65 (Basic Books 1995)

Sanford Braver and Diane O’Connell, Divorced Dads, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12 (Tarcher-Putnam 1998)

4. Family and Market

Gary Becker and Kevin M. Murphy, “The Family and the State”, 31 J. Law and Econ. 1 (1988) (HeinOnline)

Victor Fuchs, Women’s Quest for Economic Equality, pp. 58-74 (Harvard University Press, 1988)

5. Children

Richard McKenzie, *Rethinking Orphanages for the 21st Century*, Chapters 1, 2, 5, 11, 13, 16 (Sage 1999)

Christina Hoff Sommers, *The War Against Boys*, Preface, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 (Simon and Schuster 2000)
Judith Wallerstein, et. al., *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce*, Introduction, Chapters 21, 22 (Hyperion 2000)

6. **Public Choice and Private Institutions** (One week)


7. **Women**

Elizabeth Barber, *Women’s Work: The First 20,000 Years*, Introduction, Chapter 1, (Norton 1994)
Wendy Shalit, *A Return To Modesty*, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 9, 12, Conclusion (Free Press 1999)

8. **Incentives for Investment**


James Buchanan, “Rent-Seeking, Noncompensated Transfers and the Rights of Succession”, 26 J. Law & Econ. 71 (1983) (HeinOnline)

9. **Aging and Old Age**


10. **Human Nature, Human Capital, Sociology, and Evolutionary Changes**
Steven Pinker, The Blank Slate Chapters 1, 2, 3 (pages 51-58), 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19

Robert Wright, *The Moral Animal*, Introduction, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 16 (Vintage 1994)


Robert Wright, *Nonzero*, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 16, 21, 22 (Vintage 2000)

Matt Ridley, *Red Queen*, Chapters 1, 6, 7, Epilogue (Macmillan 1994)


David Buss, *The Dangerous Passion*, Chapters 1, 3, 7 (Free Press 2000)

Daniel Dennett, *Darwin’s Dangerous Idea*, Chapters 16, 17 (Touchstone 1996)

Franz de Waal, *Chimpanzee Politics* (Johns Hopkins 1998)

11. **Social Structure and Cognitive Power**


Charles Murray, *Real Education: Four Simple Truths for Bringing America’s Schools Back to Reality*, (pages to be determined)

12. **Social Structure and Dignity in the Modern Welfare State**

Charles Murray, *Losing Ground*, Prologue, Chapters, 2, 3, 10, 15, 16

Charles Murray, *In Pursuit of Happiness*, Foreword, Prologue, pp. 1-37, Chapters 6, 12, 13

Charles Murray, Coming Apart (selections to be determined later)


13. **Plural Marriage**

Matt Ridley, *Red Queen*, Chapters 6, 7, Epilogue (Macmillan 1994)

Batchelor, Watson, Wilde, *Voices In Harmony*, Chapters 1, 2, 7 (Principle Voices 2000)

14. **Genes and Homosexuality**


15. **Eugenics and Dysgenics**


J. Philippe Rushton, *Race, Evolution and Behavior*, Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11 (Transaction 1995)

16. **Social Capital**


17. **Comparative and Historical Institutions**
