**TITLE:** History 575.002 - Independent Studies: The First Families

**TIME:** Spring 2020, Mondays at 10am

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Dana Cooper, Department of History

**OFFICE HOURS:** M/W, 9-11am & 12-2pm, F, 9-11am

**CONTACT:** Email: cooperdc@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936-468-2224
Office: LAN 359

**REQUIRED BOOKS:**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** During the course of this independent study, students will
1) familiarize themselves with the history and historiography of the First Families;
2) embarked on an academic analysis of the motivations and psychology of First Family behavior;
3) develop skills in discussing, reading, researching, and writing of the history surrounding the First Families;
4) submit a paper proposal to a professional history conference related to the First Families; and
5) produce an intensive research paper using secondary and primary sources related to the First Families.

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:** Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Any student caught in such unethical activity will receive a zero for the assignment. Serious violations, such downloading a paper from the internet, will result in automatic failure of the course. I will also report cheating to your dean as described in university policy A-9.1. Under this policy, students charged with more than one violation during their academic careers will be summoned before the University Committee on Academic Integrity. If the Committee validates the charges, it may place students on probation or suspend them. You may read the policy, including your right to appeal charges of dishonesty, at http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs/ CHEATING_AND_PLAGIARISM.html.
**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Students in this class will be responsible for all material addressed in this course including discussions, films, readings, and research. The final course grade will be based on the average of your performance on the following:

1) **WEEKLY READINGS PARTICIPATION AND DISCUSSION (30%)**— Your physical presence in the class is only part of your grade. You must demonstrate through your attendance and class discussions (assigned readings presentations, insightful comments, reflective questions) that you read the assigned material and thoughtfully considered the information with a critical eye.

2) **MONTHLY READING WRITING RESPONSES (30%)**— Once a month, you will turn in a typed response to the readings you have previously completed for the class on a theme of your choosing. This segment of the class includes the submission of a paper proposal on the First Families to a professional history conference. All written work in this class must adhere to traditional academic writing format (one-inch margins, 12-point font, and Times New Roman) and follow *The Chicago Manual of Style* footnote and citation guidelines.

3) **RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PAPER (40%)**— You will research and write a 10-page scholarly paper on some aspect of the First Families history selected in concert with the professor. Only published sources—peer-reviewed books and scholarly journal articles—are considered acceptable for this project. The internet is not an acceptable source for this project. Again, all written work in this class must adhere to traditional academic writing format (one-inch margins, 12-point font, and Times New Roman) and follow *The Chicago Manual of Style* footnote and citation guidelines.

**GRADING SCALE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Average</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-60</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59-0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** In accordance with university policy, students with disabilities who need accommodations are expected to initiate a meeting with the professor immediately upon registering with the Office of Disability Services to discuss how accommodations included on the Special Accommodation Request form can best be provided. Students with disabilities who may have special needs and have not requested support services should seek assistance through the Office of Disability Services. Any arrangements made are strictly confidential.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is expected at every meeting. Except in the case of a medical emergency or the death of an immediate family member, you are expected to attend every class meeting in its entirety.
**TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE:** This is a provisional schedule and is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

| Week 1 | January 20 | *First Families*, Preface  
*First Fathers*, “By Way of Introduction,” “In Conclusion,” 3 chapters of your choosing |
| Week 2 | January 27 | *First Families*, Ch. 1-2  
*First Mothers*, Introduction, Acknowledgments, 3 chapters of your choosing |
| Week 3 | February 3 | *First Families*, Ch. 3-4  
*Affairs of State*, Prologue, Conclusion, Appendix, 3 chapters of your choosing |
| Week 4 | February 10 | *First Families*, Ch. 5-6  
*Hidden Power*, Introduction, 3 chapters of your choosing  
**READING RESPONSE #1 DUE** |
| Week 5 | February 17 | *First Families*, Ch. 7-8  
*All the Presidents’ Children*, Preface, Epilogue, 3 chapters of your choosing |
| Week 6 | February 24 | *First Families*, Ch. 9-10  
*The Raising of a President*, Ch. 1, Epilogue, 3 chapters of your choosing |
| Week 7 | March 2 | *First Families*, Ch. 11-12  
*My Dear President*, Foreword, Introduction, The Correspondents, 2 chapters of your choosing  
March 9-13 Spring Break Holidays |
| Week 8 | March 16 | *First Families*, Ch. 13-14  
*First Daughters*, Foreword, Introduction, The Correspondents, 2 chapters of your choosing  
**READING RESPONSE #2 DUE** |
| Week 9 | March 23 | FF Autobiography/Biography of your choosing  
**RESEARCH PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY & CONFERENCE PROPOSAL DUE** |
<p>| Week 10 | March 30 | FF Autobiography/Biography of your choosing |
| Week 11 | April 6 | <strong>READING RESPONSE #3 DUE</strong> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th>April 13</th>
<th>Discussion of Research, No Assigned Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Discussion of Research, No Assigned Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td><strong>FIRST FAMILIES RESEARCH DRAFT DUE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 17</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td><strong>FIRST FAMILIES FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>