TITLE: History 3310-500: The First Families (Online/Livestream)
TIME: Fall 2021, Monday, 5:30-6:45pm
PLACE: LAN 142 and Virtual via Zoom
PROFESSOR: Dr. Dana Cooper, Department of History
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, 10:30am-1pm, Wednesday, 11-1:30pm, & by appt.
CONTACT: Email: cooperdc@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936-468-2224
Office: LAN 359

REQUIRED BOOKS:
1) Bonnie Angelo, First Families: The Impact of the White House on Their Lives (2005)
3) Bonnie Angelo, First Mothers: The Women Who Shaped the Presidents (2000)
4) Gil Troy, Affairs of State: The Rise and Rejection of the Presidential Couple Since World War II (1997)
6) Doug Wead, All the Presidents’ Children: Triumph and Tragedy in the Lives of America’s First Families (2003)
8) Gerald W. Gawalt, My Dear President: Letters Between Presidents and Their Wives (2005)

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 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION (20%)—Your presence in class, while expected, 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.

4) CONFERENCE ABSTRACT SUBMISSION (10%)—You will find a conference that your paper will fit with and submit your paper for possible presentation. It is not required that your paper is accepted for presentation. It is required that you submit an abstract.

GRADING SCALE:

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<tr>
<th>Semester Average</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
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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, either in person or virtually. 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     | August 23     | First Families, Preface  
|            |               | First Fathers, “By Way of Introduction,” “In Conclusion,” 3 chapters of your choosing  
|            |               | Mamie’s Million Dollar Fudge  
| Week 2     | August 30     | First Families, Ch. 1-2  
|            |               | First Mothers, Introduction, Acknowledgments, 3 chapters of your choosing  
|            |               | Clinton Family Chocolate Chip Cookies  
| Week 3     | September 6   | First Families, Ch. 3-4  
|            |               | Affairs of State, Prologue, Conclusion, Appendix, 3 chapters of your choosing  
|            |               | Eleanor Roosevelt Baked Indian Pudding  
| Week 4     | September 13  | First Families, Ch. 5-6  
|            |               | Hidden Power, Introduction, 3 chapters of your choosing  
|            |               | **READING RESPONSE #1 DUE**  
|            |               | Bess Truman Ozark Pudding  
| Week 5     | September 20  | First Families, Ch. 7-8  
|            |               | All the Presidents’ Children, Preface, Epilogue, 3 chapters of your choosing  
|            |               | Laura Bush Cowboy Cookies  
| Week 6     | September 27  | First Families, Ch. 9-10  
|            |               | The Raising of a President, Ch. 1, Epilogue, 3 chapters of your choosing  
|            |               | Mary Todd Lincoln White Almond Cake  
| Week 7     | October 4     | First Families, Ch. 11-12  
|            |               | My Dear President, Foreword, Introduction, The Correspondents, 2 chapters of your choosing  
|            |               | Dolley Madison Woodbury Cinnamon Teacakes  
| Week 8     | October 11    | First Families, Ch. 13-14  
|            |               | First Daughters, Foreword, Introduction, The Correspondents, 2 chapters of your choosing  

READING RESPONSE #2 DUE
Abigail Adams Apple Pan Dowdy

Week 9  October 18  FF Autobiography/Biography of your choosing
RESEARCH PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY & CONFERENCE PROPOSAL DUE
William H. Harrison Poundcake

Week 10  October 25  FF Autobiography/Biography of your choosing
Sarah Polk Hickory Nut Cake

Week 11  November 1  READING RESPONSE #3 DUE
Lady Bird Honey Pecan Pie

Week 12  November 8  Discussion of Research, No Assigned Readings
Week 13  November 15  Time to Read, Research & Write
Week 14  November 22  Break for Writing, Editing, and Proofreading
Week 15  November 29  FIRST FAMILIES RESEARCH DRAFT DUE
Week 16  December 6  FIRST FAMILIES FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE
Michelle Obama’s Citrus Shortbread Cookies