

The Family in Fiction and Film

The family is a focal point of life. To look at the family is to see the great themes by which lives are understood: love and hate, connection and solitude, care and indifference, dependence and independence, freedom and duty, comfort and hurt, truth and falsehood, the eternal and the temporal. In this course we will consider and discuss several short stories, one personal essay, one film, and a handful of poems that revolve around the theme of the family.

This will be primarily a discussion class. Members should read/view the works before each class.

Schedule

Week One

story: Kaplan, "Doe Season"

story: Lan Samantha Chang, "The Unforgetting"

Week Two

personal essay: Sanders, "Under the Influence"

short story: Rosa, "The Third Bank of the River"

short story: Donald Hall, "White Apples"

Week Three

short story: John Cheever, "Goodbye, My Brother"

poem: Li-Young Lee, "The Gift"

Week Four:

film: *The Summer Hours*

personal essay: Wallace Stegner, "Letter—Much Too Late"