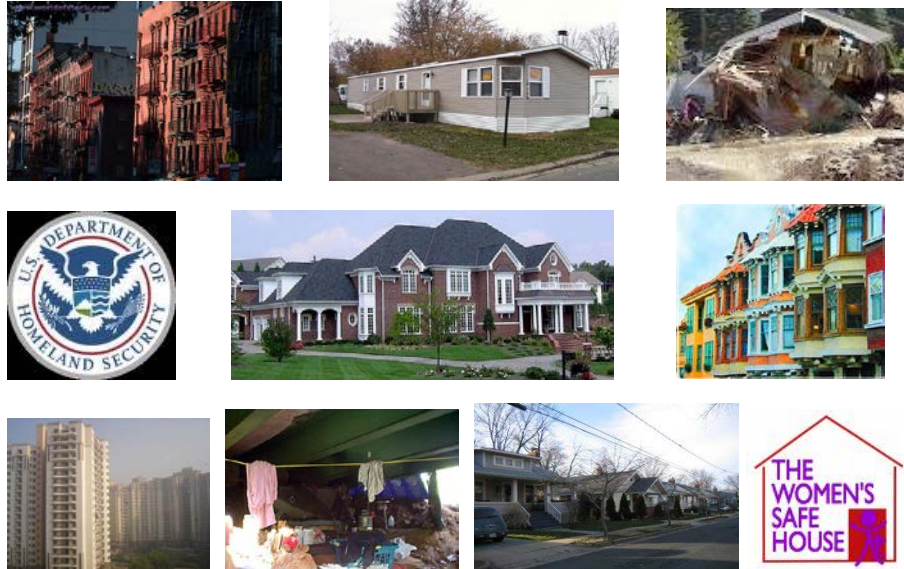


Professor Deborah K. King
Office: 107 Silsby

Office Hours: Tues 4-5:30 pm
Wed. 3-5 pm & by appointment

SOCY 32
THE SOCIAL MEANINGS OF HOME
Winter 2012 ~ 11 Period
x-hour: Tuesday at 12 noon



THE SOCIAL MEANINGS OF HOME

This course is an exploration of the economic, cultural, social and political dynamics of "home" in contemporary U. S. society. The concept, "home" invariably invokes multiple images and connotations -- a physical dwelling, family, economic property, birthplace, nationality, environment, haven, etc. We may speak fondly of "home sweet home," "dream home," "home is where the heart is," "there's no place like home," and "homiest." Yet we also want to be mindful of home as a site of exclusion, conflicts, loss and danger – homesick, homelessness, homeland security, and home invasion.

In the course, we will consider the home as both a social construction and a social context that profoundly shapes our personal and collective identities, gender roles and intimate relationships, plus class status and divisions, racial-ethnic memberships and tensions. The course will explore home & the household as economic property; and the implications of their location, design, artifacts and domestic lifestyles for the cultivation of self-defining agents as well as model subjects, consumers and citizens. Theoretical, empirical and interpretative materials in the course may touch on subjects as varied as housing and home ownership, shopping and hyper-consumption, food & kitchen culture, family practices and values, the home improvement industry, and home/self makeover shows on reality television.

REQUIRED BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Books are available at the Dartmouth Bookstore and Wheelock Books

Carrington, Christopher. 2002. *No Place Like Home: Relationships and Family Life among Lesbians and Gay Men*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Cohen, Lizabeth. 2003. *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America*. New York: Vintage Books – Random House

Kefalas, Maria. 2003. *Working-Class Heroes: Protecting Home, Community, and Nation in a Chicago Neighborhood*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press

Lareau, Annette. 2011. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life, Second Edition with an Update Decade Later*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2nd edition

Optional:

Duany, Andres, Plater-Zyberk, Elizabeth, and Speck, Jeff. 2010. *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*. NY: North Point Press; 10th Anniversary Edition

Additional Required Readings and Materials

Other required course readings and materials will be posted on Blackboard, placed on Baker Library Reserves or the Jones Media Center Reserves. The course site contains the syllabus, assignments, files and links to online readings, resource websites and other materials.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend all class sessions as well as any special sessions, to complete reading assignments in a timely fashion and to participate meaningfully in class meetings. Much of the work of this course will involve our collective examination and discussion of secondary as well as primary sources -- print, visual and recorded.

20% Your Personal Home Scrapbook

Student will be required to complete a series of brief tasks and assignments that are related to various aspects of the social meanings of home. These essays and reports, 1-3 pages in length, will explore various themes and issues raised in the course materials through reflections on your experiences and desires of "home". The information conveyed in these assignments will be read only by Professor King and will be handled in a confidential manner. The assignments are scheduled throughout the term, with detailed descriptions posted on Blackboard.

15% One Short Exercise in the Use of the Sociological Imagination

This assignment will involve different types of research methodologies (e. g. observational/ ethnographic, content analysis, interview, quantitative, etc.) and entail the critical use of theoretical concepts and the sociological imagination. The options and detailed descriptions for satisfying this requirement will be posted on Blackboard

30% In-class Midterm Examination

This exam will cover all readings, lectures, videos, presentations and other required activities.

35% Take-home Final Examination

COURSE POLICIES

Honor Principle Academic work is simultaneously a collaborative and an independent enterprise. Consulting with others and using their questions, ideas, findings and interpretations are integral parts of intellectual inquiry. The laborious, critical and creative work of developing one's own understanding is equally important. In this course, you will have opportunities to engage in both endeavors. Therefore it is essential that you maintain the integrity of each. Class members are encouraged to discuss readings, lectures and other course materials with one another. However writing assignments and the research paper must be your own independent work; in which you appropriately cite the intellectual ideas and products of others (including other class members, scholarship and other sources and lectures). *Remember:* Plagiarism is the borrowing of the words or the ideals of another person without proper acknowledgment. Please purchase and use a comprehensive reference book on acknowledging sources, consult *Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgment*, use links to various citation references posted on Blackboard's "External Links" and speak with the professor.

You should familiarize yourself with Dartmouth College's *Academic Honor Principle* regarding honesty in completing all course examinations, research papers, and exercises (see online "Academic Honor" under the Registrar Regulations, plus the Standards of Conduct regulations on computing resources and library privileges). This Principle commits each of us to individual responsibility and fairness in all course work; and prohibits cheating on exams, fabricating research, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, purchasing papers, submitting fraudulent documents, engaging in computing abuses and forging signatures.

Submission & Return of Assignments The submission of assignments, exams and paper is expected on the indicated "due date" during that day's class meeting (unless otherwise stated). Requests for *late* submissions should be made prior to the due date. Please note that grades on non-approved late submissions will be penalized. All work to be graded should be submitted in a clasp envelope, with your name clearly printed on the front. Graded work will be returned in the same envelope. Course assignments, examinations and papers *may not be submitted* by blitz, mail or fax (unless otherwise instructed and with prior approval).

Missed Classes As responsible adults, class members should notify the instructor *in writing* of any anticipated absences. Repeated absences, without documented evidence of illness or family emergency, will adversely affect your grade. In the event that you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for getting the lecture notes for that class from another student. As a general policy, I do not make my lecture notes available. I trust that members of the class will be cooperative in sharing their notes, realizing that you also may be in a similar position one day.

Religious Observances Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during the term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please notify me *in writing* before the end of the second week of the term.

Make-up Exams Students with valid reasons are entitled to make-up the midterm examination. However, such arrangements are only available for students who inform me at least 48 hours *prior* to the original exam date.

Note for Students who Speak English as a Second Language Students who speak English as a second language are encouraged to meet with the professor during the first week of the term to discuss any academic assistance you may require.

Note for Students with Disabilities Students with learning or other disabilities as well as chronic health conditions that may disrupt your studies are encouraged to meet with the professor during the first two weeks of the term to discuss any academic assistance or accommodations you may require. Please provide official documentation of your condition or circumstances. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Disabilities Coordinator or other college officials may be consulted.

Electronic Devices Your cell phone, iPod, MP3, Blackberry, Bluetooth, etc. must be turned-off and put away during class sessions and required events. Laptop computers and notepads may only be used for note taking. Web browsing, handling email, and working on non-course related matters are distracting for you as well as other class members. Repeated disregard of this policy will lead to a reduction in your grade.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, ACTIVITIES & ASSIGNMENTS

PART 1 WHAT EXACTLY DO WE MEAN . . . *HOME?*

Wed. Jan. 4 **Course Overview**

Fri. Jan. 6 ***Imagining Home***

Baum, L. Frank. "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" (on Blackboard)

Wright, Gwendolyn. 1991. "Prescribing the Model Home. *Social Research*, v58 n1 Spring: 213-226 (on Blackboard – Assigned Readings)

Kidd, Sean A. and Evans, John D. 2011. "Home Is Where You Draw Strength and Rest: The Meanings of Home for Houseless Young People," *Youth Society*, vol. 43 no. 2 June: 752-773 (on Blackboard – Assigned Readings)

Scrapbook Assignment One: *An Environmental Memoir of Home*

See instruction on Blackboard for details.

Due: Fri. Jan 6

PART II PIECES OF THE DREAM: HOME AS HOMEOWNERSHIP AND CONSUMPTION

Mon. Jan. 9 ***The American Dream: Marketing the Desire for Housing***

Cohen, Lizabeth. 2003. *A Consumers' Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America*. Prologue, Chapters 1 - 4

Duany, Andres, et. al. 2010. *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*. Preface, Intro, and Chap. 1

Wed. Jan. 11 ***Persistent Nightmares: Race, Class & Gender Dynamics in Housing Consumption***

Cohen, *A Consumers' Republic America*. Chap. 5 - 7

View: Models "Sears Homes 1908-1940 - Houses From Sears Catalog," Sears Archives, Historic Homes (on Blackboard)

Fri. Jan. 13 ***Homeownership as a Mechanism for Inequality: Housing Wealth or Housing Insecurity***

Di, Zhu Xiao and Liu, Ziaodong. 2007. "The Importance of Wealth and Income in the Transition to Homeownership." *Cityscape* v9 n2: 137-151 (on Blackboard)

Stone, Michael. 2006. "Housing Affordability: One-Third of a Nation Shelter-Poor," in *A Right to Housing: Foundation for a New Social Agenda*, edited by Rachel C. Bratt, Michael E. Stone and Chester Hartman. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, pgs. 38-60 (on Blackboard)

Haurin, Donald, Herbert, Christopher and Rosenthal, Stuart. 2007. "Homeownership Gaps Among Low-Income and Minority Households," *Cityscape* v9 n2 : 5-31 (on Blackboard)

Skim:

U. S. Census. Household Economic Studies. 2003. "Net Worth and Asset Ownership of Households: 1998 and 2000." (on Blackboard)

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2007. "Affordable Housing Needs 2005: A Report to Congress" May 2007 (on Blackboard)

BOB MOSES

SNCC Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee &
 Founder, Algebra Project
 Community Faith Celebration for the MLK Community Celebration
Sunday, January 15
 2:00 pm ~ Rollins Chapel

Mon. Jan. 16 **No class meeting ~ MLK Observance**

Wed. Jan. 18 **Current Racial & Ethnic Barriers to Ownership**

Ross, S. L., et. al., 2005. "Housing Discrimination in Metropolitan America: Explaining Changes between 1989 and 2000," *Social Problems* v. 52 no. 2 May: 152-80 (on Blackboard)

Healy, Patrick O'Gilfoil. 2005. "For Muslims, Loans for the Conscience," *New York Times*, August 5 (on Blackboard)

One of the following:

McConnell, E. D. et. al., 2007. "Buying into the American Dream? Mexican Immigrants, Legal Status and Homeownership in Los Angeles County," *Social Science Quarterly* v. 88 no. 1 March: 199-221 (on Blackboard)

Painter, Gary et. al. 2003. "Heterogeneity in Asian American Home-ownership: The Impact of Household Endowments and Immigrant Status," *Urban Studies* v40 n3 March: 505-530 (on Blackboard)

Optional:

Department of Housing & Urban Development. *Discrimination in Metropolitan Housing Markets: National Results from Phase 1 of the Housing Discrimination Study (HDS)*, May 2003 (on Blackboard)

Fri. Jan. 20 **Housing Boom to Bust: The Foreclosure Disaster**

Ross, Lauren and Squires, Gregory. 2011. "The Personal Costs of Subprime Lending and the Foreclosure Crisis: A Matter of Trust, Insecurity and Institutional Deception," *Social Science Quarterly*, v92 n1 March: 140-163 (on Blackboard)

Querci, Roberto, Freeman, Allison and Ratcliffe, Janneke. 2011. "Foreclosing on the American Dream," Chapter 1 in *Regaining the Dream: How to Renew the Promise of Homeownership for America's Working Families*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institute, pp. 1-12 (on Blackboard)

The State of the Nation's Housing. 2011. Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University. Chap. 4 "Homeownership" and Chap. 6 "Housing Challenges" (on Blackboard)

View: "Foreclosing on the American Dream," *Los Angeles Time* video. View 3 of Trustee Sales. (Link on Blackboard)

View: Feature: "There Goes the Neighborhood," *60 Minutes*, CBS News. December 18, 2011 7:42 PM (Link on Blackboard)

PART III BEING AT HOME: HOME AS THE SELF

Mon. Jan. 23

Conceptualizing Home

Douglas, Mary. "The Ideal of a Home: A Kind of Space" *Social Research*, v58 n1 Spring 1991: 287 - 307 (on Blackboard)

Vollmer, J. L., et. al., "The American Master Bedroom: Its Changing Location and Significance to the Family," *Journal of Interior Design* v. 31 no. 1 2005: 1-13 (on Blackboard)

Duany, *Suburban Nation*, Chaps. 2- 4 and 7 (pp.21-83, 115-133)

One of the following:

Pader, Ellen. 2002. "Housing Occupancy Standards: Inscribing Ethnicity and Family Relations on the Land," *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research* v19 n4 Winter: 300-318 (Blackboard – Assigned Readings)

Luken, Paul C. and Vaughan, Suzanne. 2006. "Standardizing Childrearing through Housing," *Social Problems*, V 53, n 3: 299–331 (Blackboard – Assigned Readings)

Wed. Jan. 25

Consuming Fantasies: The Idealized Home & The Idealized Self

Kron, Joan. 1983. "The Semiotics of Home Décor," in *Home-psych: The Social Psychology of Home and Decoration*. Location: , pp. 109–118 (on Blackboard)

Dwyer, Rachel E. 2007. Expanding Homes and Increasing Inequalities: U.S. Housing Development and the Residential Segregation of the Affluent," *Social Problems*, v54, n1: 23–46 (on Blackboard)

Madigan, Ruth and Munro, Moira. 1996. 'House Beautiful: Style and Consumption in the Home,' *Sociology* v30 n1: 41-57 (on Blackboard)

Skim:

American Affluence Research Center, 2011. "Highlights of the Fall 2011 Affluent Market Tracking Study," (Link on Blackboard)

Fri. Jan. 27

Our Kind of Dream Home: Culturally Meaningful Housing

Read any two of the following:

Mendez, Michael. 2005. "Latino New Urbanism: Building on Cultural Preferences," *Opolis* v1 n1 Winter: 33-48 (on Blackboard)

Amor, C. M. "Arab-American Muslims' Home Interiors in the US: Meanings, Uses and Communication," *Journal of Interior Design* v. 32 no. 1 2006: 1-16 (on Blackboard)

Hadjiyanni, Tasoulla; and Helle, Kristin. 2010. "(Im)materiality and Practice: Craft Making as a Medium for Reconstructing Ojibwe Identity in Domestic Spaces," *Home Cultures*, v 7,n 1, March: 57-84 (on Blackboard)

PART IV

HOW WE PRACTICE HOME: GENDER, CLASS, & FAMILY VALUES

Mon. Jan. 30

The Value of Home, Assessing Its Residents:

Kusenbach, Margarethe. 2009. "Salvaging Decency: Mobile Home Residents' Strategies of Managing the Stigma of "Trailer" Living," *Qualitative Sociology* (2009) 32: 399–428 (on Blackboard)

Allen, Chris; Powell, Ryan; Casey, Rionach; and Coward, Sarah. 2007. 'Ordinary, the Same as Anywhere Else': Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity in 'Marginal' Middle-Class Neighborhoods," *Sociology*, v41 n2; 239-358 (on Blackboard)

Skim:

Bendiner-Viani, Gabrielle and Saegert, Susan. 2007. "Making Housing Home," *Places* v19.n2 Summer: 72-80 (on Blackboard)

Friday, January 27
"THE HELP"
 Hopkins Center Film
 7:00 pm ~ Spaulding, Hopkins Center \$

- Wed. Feb. 1** **Home Schooling in Social Class**
 Lareau, Annette. 2011. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life, Second Edition with an Update Decade Later*, Chaps. 1-5
- Fri. Feb. 3** **Power and Limits of Social Class & Parenting**
 Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods*, Chaps. 12 and 13

 Browse Website: *People Like Us* (on Blackboard)
- Mon. Feb. 6** No new readings
- Wed. Feb 8** **Midterm Examination**
- Fri. Feb. 10** **No class meeting ~ Winter Carnival**
- Mon. Feb. 13** **Gender, Home and Domesticity: The Masculine Self**
 Gelber, Steven M. 1997. "Do-It-Yourself: Constructing, Repairing and Maintaining Domestic Masculinity," *American Quarterly* v49 n1: 66-112 (on Blackboard)

 Singleton, Andrew and Maher, Jane Maree. "The "New Man" Is in the House: Young Men, Social Change, and Housework," *Journal of Men's Studies* Spring 2004 v12, n 3; 227-. (on Blackboard)
- Wed. Feb. 15** **Homemaking: The Feminine (or Subordinate) Self**
 Bowlby, Sophie et. al. 1997. "Doing Home": Patriarchy, Caring and Space, *Women's Studies International Forum*, v20 n3 19: 343-350 (on Blackboard)

 Carrington, Christopher. *No Place Like Home: Relationships and Family Life among Lesbians and Gay Men*. Introduction, Chaps. 1 & 2

 Skim:
 Harris, P. B., et. al. 2005. "Is Cleanliness Next to Godliness? The Role of Housekeeping in Impression Formation," *Environment and Behavior* v. 37 no. 1 January: 81-101 529 (on Blackboard)
- Fri. Feb. 17** **Privilege, Kin and Home-style Choices**
 Carrington, *No Place Like Home*. Chaps. 3 – 5 and Conclusion

PART V WHEN HOME IS NOT A HAVEN: FEAR AND DANGER AT HOME

- Mon. Feb. 20** **Protecting the Idealized Home: Disney-fication and Gated Communities**
 Low, Setha. 2008. "Fortification of Residential Neighbourhoods and the New Emotions of Home," *Housing, Theory, and Society*, v25, n1: 47-65 (on Blackboard)

 Thomas, Matt. 2007. "Celebration, USA: The First Sign of What Will be America's Homogenous Landscape," *Journal of American Culture*, v30 n2: 187-197 (on Blackboard)

 Duany, *Suburban Nation, Chap. 10 "How To Make a Town"*

- Wed. Feb. 22** ***Home as Security***
Kefalas, Maria. 2003. *Working-Class Heroes: Protecting Home, Community and Nation in A Chicago Neighborhood*, Introduction, Chapters 1 -3
- Fri. Feb. 24** ***No Class Meeting Today***
- Mon. Feb. 27** ***Securing the Homeland***
Kefalas, *Working Class Heroes*, Chap. 4 and Conclusion

Hay, James. 2006. "Designing Homes to be the First Line of Defense: Safe Households, Mobilization, and the New Mobile Privatization," *Cultural Studies* Vol. 20, Nos. 4/5 July/September: 349 -377 (on Blackboard)
- Wed. Feb. 29** **Topic & Readings - TBA**
- Fri. Mar. 2** **Topic & Readings - TBA**
- Mon. Mar. 5** **Topic & Readings - TBA**
- Wed. Mar. 7** ***Course Review - Last Day of Class***

MONDAY, MARCH 12

TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE: 6:00 pm

Please submit a hard copy to 107 Silsby or my mailbox in 111 Silsby.

Submission via email, Blackboard, fax, or mail will not be accepted

Kidd, Sean A. and Evans, John D. 2011. "Home Is Where You Draw Strength and Rest: The Meanings of Home for Houseless Young People," *Youth Society*, vol. 43 no. 2 June: 752-773

The McMansionization of America? Income stratification and the standard of living in housing, 1960-2000
 RE Dwyer - *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 2009, Volume 27, Issue 4, December 2009, Pages 285-300

Poverty, prosperity, and place: the shape of class segregation in the age of extremes
 RE Dwyer
Social Problems, 2010 # Vol. 57, No. 1, February 2010:114-137

Olesen, Bodil Birkebaek. 2010. "Ethnic Objects in Domestic Interiors: Space, Atmosphere and the Making of Home," *Home Cultures*, v7 n1: 25-41 (on Blackboard)

Bitterman, Alex. 2006. "Inside Out: Reconstructing Interior Lives in New Orleans," *Journal of Interior Design* 31 no3: 6-9 (on Blackboard)

Cunningham, Douglas A. 2005. "A Theme Park Built for One: The New Urbanism vs. Disney Design in The Truman Show," *Critical Survey*, v17, n1: 109-130

Housing and wealth inequality: racial-ethnic differences in home equity in the United States
 [PDF] from jhu.eduL
 J Krivo... - *Demography*, 2004

Spitze, Glenna. 1999. "Getting Help With Housework: Household Resources and Social Networks," *Journal of Family Issues*, 20; 724-745 (on Blackboard)

Alison Blunt 2005. "Cultural geography: cultural geographies of home," *Progress in Human Geography*, v29 n 4: 505-515 (on Blackboard)

Hoey, Brian A. 2010. "Place for Personhood: Individual and Local Character in Lifestyle Migration," *City & Society*, v22, n2: 237-261 (on Blackboard)

< <http://www.vnews.com/irene/> >