



THE TIKVAH FUND
165 E. 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Future of the Family
July 7, 2014 – July 18, 2014

Dean: Eric Cohen
Core Instructors: Dara Horn, Gilbert C. Meilaender, Meir Soloveichik

I. Description:

For much of human history, family life has defined who we are as human beings. In families, we have reared the young and cared for the old; we have passed down the religious and cultural traditions of our ancestors; we have celebrated life's joys and faced life's sorrows; and we have given structure and meaning to human sexuality, to the relations between men and women, and to the intergenerational ties between parents and children. The family has also been and still remains a crucial economic institution—the first and primary place where the rising generation acquires the habits and skills to earn a living, and the first and primary safety net for loved ones in need.

Yet throughout history, the family has always had its rivals—the pursuit of sexual pleasure and sexual freedom, without the limits of monogamy; the pursuit of philosophical friendship, without the burdens of domestic life; and the pursuit of wealth and excellence in the world of affairs, undistracted by the anxieties and exhaustions of the home. Family life has also always had its troubles—sibling rivalry, loveless marriages, intergenerational revolts.

And in the modern age—especially in the most technologically advanced and least traditional societies—the family is arguably in a novel state of crisis. Marriage rates are down; divorce and illegitimacy rates are up, especially among the lower classes of society. Birth-rates are down, with nearly all Western countries—America and Israel as the exceptions—having too few children to sustain and perpetuate themselves into the future. In the meantime, as societies grow older, the challenges of caring for the needy elderly will raise new questions about the ties that bind one generation to the next.

This seminar will examine the state of the family in modern society and the idea of the family as explored and defined in some of the great theological, philosophical and literary texts of the Judeo-Christian West—from the Hebrew Bible and Plato, to Tolstoy and Sholem Aleichem, to Simone de Beauvoir and Joseph Soloveitchik. We will explore the big arguments about the meaning of the family, as well as the facts and trends that show us how the institution of the family is truly faring in modern times. And we will look at a range of concrete reform ideas—both cultural and political—that aim to strengthen family life for the generations ahead.



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II. Course Calendar

Monday, July 7 The Future of the Family Is there a Crisis in the Family?			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
8:30	Welcome Breakfast		
9:15-11:15	Gilbert Meilaender and Eric Cohen	The Family and Its Rivals: A Philosophic View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone de Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i>, “The Mother,” (New York: First Vintage Books, 2011). • Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i>, trans. Walter Kaufmann (New York: Vintage, 1989), III. 7. • Homer, <i>Iliad</i>, trans. Richard Lattimore (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), bk. VI. • Francis Bacon, “Of Marriage and Single Life” in Leon R. Kass and Amy A. Kass, eds., <i>Wing to Wing, Oar to Oar</i> (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2000). • Montaigne, “Of Friendship,” <i>The Complete Essays of Montaigne</i>, trans. Donald M. Frame (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1965), pp. 136-139.
11:30-1:00	Gilbert Meilaender and Eric Cohen	The Family and Its Rivals: A Sociological View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Epstein, “The Perpetual Adolescent,” <i>The Weekly Standard</i>, March 15, 2003; Vol. 9, No. 26. • Anne Marie Slaughter, “Why Women Still Can’t Have it All,” <i>The Atlantic</i>, June 13, 2012.
1:00-3:00	Lunch and Participant Introductions		
3:00-6:00	W. Bradford Wilcox	State of the Family Today, and What is at Stake?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Family Map 2014 • W. Bradford Wilcox, “Family Matters” Slate.com, January 22, 2014.
Dinner			



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Tuesday, July 8 The Future of the Family			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
9:45-12:30	Gilbert Meilaender	Family and Modern Political Thought, session 1	Scott Yenor, <i>Family Politics: The Idea of Marriage in Modern Political Thought</i> (Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2011), ch. 1-3.
2:30-5:00	Gilbert Meilaender and Eric Cohen	Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis 2-4 • Leon R. Kass, <i>The Beginning of Wisdom</i> (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006), pp. 98-122. • William F. May, “Four Mischievous Theories of Sex” in <i>Wing to Wing, Oar to Oar</i>.

Wednesday, July 9 The Future of the Family			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
9:45-12:30	Gilbert Meilaender	Family and Modern Political Thought, session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yenor, <i>Family Politics</i>, ch. 4-5.
2:30-5:00	Gilbert Meilaender and Eric Cohen	Eros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.S. Lewis, “Eros” <i>The Four Loves</i> (San Diego, New York: Harcourt, Inc., 1988). • Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i>, trans. James. H. Nichols, Jr. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998), 227a-257b.



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Thursday, July 10 The Future of the Family			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
9:45-12:30	Gilbert Meilaender	Family and Modern Political Thought, session 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yenor, <i>Family Politics</i>, ch. 6, 9.
2:30-5:00	Gilbert Meilaender	Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amy A. Kass and Leon R. Kass, “What’s Your Name?” <i>First Things</i>, November 1995.• David Blankenhorn, “I Do” in <i>Wing to Wing, Oar to Oar</i>.• Sherif Girgis, Ryan Anderson, and Robert P. George, <i>What Is Marriage?</i> (New York: Encounter Books, 2012), ch. 2.
5:30-8:00	Dinner + Film, TBD.		



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Friday, July 11			
The Future of the Family			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
9:15- 12:00	Gilbert Meilaender	Family and Modern Political Thought, session 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yenor, <i>Family Politics</i>, ch. 10-12.
1:15 – 3:30	Gilbert Meilaender and Eric Cohen	Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Walzer, <i>Spheres of Justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality</i> (New York: Basic Books, 1984), ch. 9. • I Samuel 1-2 • “Childless Love” in <i>Wing to Wing, Oar to Oar</i>. • Eric Cohen, “Why Have Children” in <i>In the Shadow of Progress: Being Human in the Age of Technology</i> (New York, Encounter Books: 2008), pp. 125-141. • Leo Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i>, trans. Louise and Aylmer Maude (Hertfordshire: Wordsworth Classics, 1996), pp. 700-707. • Irving Kristol, “Reflections on Love and Family” in <i>Neoconservatism: The Autobiography of an Idea</i> (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, Publisher, 1999), pp. 54-57.



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Monday, July 14 The Future of the Family			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
9:45-12:30	Dara Horn	The Modern Jewish Family: A Literary View, session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sholem Aleichem, <i>Tevye the Dairyman</i> (New York: Schocken Books, 2004). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Today's Children ○ Hodl
2:30-5:00	Jonathan Last	Family and Public Policy, session 1: Demography, Taxes, and the Welfare State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron Haskins, "Marriage, Parenthood, and Public Policy," <i>National Affairs</i>, Spring 2014, Issue 19. • Robert Stein, "Taxes and the Family" <i>National Affairs</i>, Winter 2010, Issue Number 2. • Phillip Longman, <i>The Empty Cradle: How Failing Birthrates Threaten World Prosperity and What to Do About It</i> (New York: Basic Books, 2004) pp. 171-196.

Tuesday, July 15 The Future of the Family			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
9:45-12:30	Dara Horn	The Modern Jewish Family: A Literary View, session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sholem Aleichem, <i>Tevye the Dairyman</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chava ○ Shprintze
2:30-5:00	Eric Cohen	Family and Public Policy, session 2: The Care of the Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President's Council on Bioethics, <i>Taking Care: Ethical Caregiving in Our Aging Society</i>, "Dilemmas of an Aging Society," September 2005.



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Wednesday, July 16 The Future of the Family			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
9:45-12:30	Dara Horn	The Modern Jewish Family: A Literary View, session 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.Y. Agnon, <i>A Book That Was Lost</i> (New York: Schocken Books, 1995). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Agunot” ○ “The Tale of the Scribe”
2:30-5:00	Ryan Anderson	Family and Public Policy, session 3: Marriage and the Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brief of Amici Curiae</i> Robert P. George, Sherif Girgis, and Ryan T. Anderson in Support of Defendants • Jonathan Rauch, “A Gay Awakening,” <i>The American Review</i>, August 2013.
5:30-8:00	Dinner and Film – <i>Fill the Void</i>		

Thursday, July 17 The Future of the Family			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
9:15-11:00	Meir Soloveichik and Eric Cohen	The Family and Judaism, session 1	Discussion of <i>Fill the Void</i>
11:15-1:00	Jack Wertheimer	The Family and Judaism, session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portrait of Jewish Americans, Pew Research Foundation, October 2013, chapter 2. • Jack Wertheimer, “Jews and the Jewish Birthrate,” <i>Commentary</i> October, 2005. • Jack Wertheimer, “Intermarriage: Can Anything Be Done?” <i>Mosaic</i>, September 2013.
3:00-5:30	Eric Cohen	Family and Public Policy, session 4: New Reproductive Technologies	The President’s Council on Bioethics, <i>Beyond Therapy: Biotechnology and the Pursuit of Happiness</i> , “Better Children,” October 2003.



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Friday, July 18			
The Future of the Family			
<i>Times</i>	<i>Lead Instructor</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
9:15-12:00	Meir Soloveichik and Eric Cohen	The Family and Judaism, session 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joseph B. Soloveitchik, "Parenthood: Natural and Redeemed" <i>Family Redeemed: Essays on Family Relationships</i>, ed. David Shatz and Joel B. Wolowelsky, pp. 105-125.• Eliezer Berkovits, "A Jewish Sexual Ethics" <i>Essential Essays on Judaism</i>, ed. David Hazony (Jerusalem: Shalem Press, 2002).
12:30-1:30	Eric Cohen	Closing Lunch	



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III. Faculty Biographies

Dean

Eric Cohen

Eric Cohen has been the Executive Director of the Tikvah Fund since 2007. He was the founder and remains editor-at-large of the *New Atlantis*, and he serves as the publisher of the *Jewish Review of Books* and *Mosaic*. Mr. Cohen has published in numerous academic and popular journals, magazines, and newspapers, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, *Weekly Standard*, *Commentary*, *The New Republic*, *First Things*, and numerous others. He is the author of *In the Shadow of Progress: Being Human in the Age of Technology* (2008) and co-editor of *The Future is Now: America Confronts the New Genetics* (2002). He was previously managing editor of the *Public Interest* and served as a senior consultant to the President's Council on Bioethics. Mr. Cohen currently serves on the board of directors of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, the Witherspoon Institute, and *National Affairs* and on the Editorial Advisory Board of *First Things*.

Core Instructors

Gilbert C. Meilaender

Gilbert C. Meilaender holds the Richard and Phyllis Duesenberg Chair in Theological Ethics at Valparaiso University. He is also a Fellow of the Hastings Center. Before coming to Valparaiso in 1996, he taught at the University of Virginia (1976-78) and Oberlin College (1978-96). Professor Meilaender was a member of the President's Council on Bioethics (2002-2009), and has served on the editorial board and as an associate editor of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*. He has also served as an associate editor for *Religious Studies Review*, on the editorial board of the *Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics*, and on the editorial advisory board of *First Things*. His published work falls generally into the area of religious ethics, and he edited (with William Werpehowski) *The Oxford Handbook of Theological Ethics* (2005). He is the author of *Body, Soul, and Bioethics*; *The Taste for the Other: The Social and Ethical Thought of C. S. Lewis*; and most recently of *Neither Beast Nor God: The Dignity of the Human Person* (Encounter Books, 2009).

Dara Horn

Dara Horn was born in New Jersey in 1977 and received her Ph.D. in comparative literature from Harvard University in 2006, studying Hebrew and Yiddish. In 2007 she was chosen by *Granta* magazine as one of America's "Best Young American Novelists." Her first novel, *In the Image*, published by W.W. Norton when she was 25, received a 2003 National Jewish Book Award, the 2002 Edward Lewis Wallant Award, and the 2003 Reform Judaism Fiction Prize. Her second novel, *The World to Come*, published by W.W. Norton in 2006, received the 2006 National Jewish Book Award for Fiction, the 2007 Harold U. Ribalow Prize, was selected as an Editors' Choice in *The New York Times Book Review* and as one of the Best Books of 2006 by *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and has been translated into eleven languages. Her third novel, *All Other Nights*, published in 2009 by W.W. Norton, was selected as an Editors' Choice in *The New York Times Book Review* and



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was one of Booklist's 25 Best Books of the Decade. In 2012, her nonfiction e-book *The Rescuer* was published by *Tablet* magazine and became a Kindle bestseller. Her newest novel, *A Guide for the Perplexed*, was published by W.W. Norton in September 2013. She has taught courses in Jewish literature and Israeli history at Harvard, Sarah Lawrence College, and City University of New York, and has lectured at over two hundred universities and cultural institutions throughout North America and in Israel. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and four children.

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik is director of the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University and the rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States. Prior to this, Soloveichik served as associate rabbi at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in Manhattan. Rabbi Soloveichik has lectured throughout the United States, in Europe, and in Israel to both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences on topics relating to Jewish theology, bioethics, wartime ethics, and Jewish-Christian relations. His essays on these subjects have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Commentary*, *First Things*, *Azure*, *Tradition*, and the *Torah U-Madda Journal*.

Visiting Speakers

W. Bradford Wilcox

W. Bradford Wilcox is Director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia, and a member of the James Madison Society at Princeton University. Brad Wilcox's research focuses on marriage, parenthood, and cohabitation, especially on the ways that marriage, gender, and culture influence the quality and stability of family life in the United States and around the globe. He is the coauthor of *Gender and Parenthood: Biological and Social Scientific Perspectives* (Columbia, 2013, with Kathleen Kovner Kline), *Whither the Child?: Causes and Consequences of Low Fertility* (Paradigm, 2013, with Eric Kaufmann), and the author of *Soft Patriarchs, New Men: How Christianity Shapes Fathers and Husbands* (Chicago, 2004). Wilcox has published articles on marriage, cohabitation, parenting, and fatherhood in *The American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *The Journal of Marriage and Family* and *The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. Wilcox is now writing a book with Nicholas Wolfinger titled, *Soul Mates: Religion, Sex, Children, & Marriage among African Americans and Latinos* (Oxford 2013). Brad Wilcox earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia and his Ph.D. at Princeton University. Prior to coming to the University of Virginia, he held research fellowships at Princeton University, Yale University and the Brookings Institution.

Jonathan V. Last

Jonathan V. Last is a senior writer at *The Weekly Standard*. His writings have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *New York Post*, the *Claremont Review of Books*, *First Things*, the *Week*, *Salon*, *Slate*, *TV Guide*, and elsewhere. His



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book, *What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster* was released in February 2013.

Ryan T. Anderson

Ryan T. Anderson researches and writes about marriage and religious liberty as the William E. Simon Fellow at The Heritage Foundation. He also focuses on justice and moral principles in economic thought, health care and education, and has expertise in bioethics and natural law theory. Anderson, who joined the leading Washington think tank's DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society in 2012, is also the editor of *Public Discourse*, the online journal of the Witherspoon Institute of Princeton, N.J. Anderson's recent work at Heritage focuses on the constitutional questions surrounding same-sex marriage. He is the co-author with Princeton's Robert P. George and Sherif Girgis of the acclaimed book, *What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense* (Encounter Books, December 2012). The three also co-wrote the article "What is Marriage?" in the winter 2011 issue of *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*. Anderson's previous positions include assistant editor of *First Things*; journalism fellow of the Phillips Foundation; and executive director of the Witherspoon Institute, where he was research assistant to Robert P. George and Jean Bethke Elshtain. Anderson received his bachelor of arts degree from Princeton University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude. He is a doctoral candidate in political philosophy at the University of Notre Dame, where he received his master's degree.

Jack Wertheimer

Jack Wertheimer is the Joseph and Martha Mendelson Professor of American Jewish History at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His area of specialization is modern Jewish history, with a particular focus on trends in the religious, educational, and organizational sectors of American Jewish life since World War II. Dr. Wertheimer is the author or editor of more than a dozen volumes, including *Unwelcome Strangers: East European Jews in Imperial Germany* (Oxford, 1987); *The American Synagogue: A Sanctuary Transformed* (Cambridge, 1987); *The Uses of Tradition: Jewish Continuity in the Modern Era* (JTS and Harvard, 1993); and *The Modern Jewish Experience—a Reader's Guide* (NYU, 1993). He also wrote *A People Divided: Judaism in Contemporary America* (Basic Books, 1993), which won the National Jewish Book Award for best 1993-94 study of contemporary Jewish life. More recently Dr. Wertheimer has written a number of studies in the field of Jewish education, including several works on Jewish supplementary schools. From 1997 through 2007 he served as provost of JTS, the Seminary's chief academic officer. He also served from 1987 through 2008 as the founding director of the Joseph and Miriam Ratner Center for the Study of Conservative Judaism, which preserves the records of rabbis, synagogues, and organizations affiliated with the Conservative movement and promotes research on its history and contemporary condition.



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IV. Our Mutual Commitment

Our pledge to you is that the program will be excellent and that the teachers are, in every case, among the best people in the world teaching the subjects they are teaching. Your pledge to us is that you will invest yourselves in the texts and the seminars, and do the work to the fullest extent of your talents. You have put your everyday work on hold to join us, so we know you come to us with great interest and commitment. We will insist that you continue that commitment—a commitment to attending each and every session, a commitment to coming to class on time, a commitment to doing all the readings—throughout the duration of the Institute. If anyone fails to honor his or her commitment, he or she will be dismissed from the Institute.