



Course Information

Course Title	Marriage and the Family
Course Prefix, Num. and Title	SOCI 2301
Division	Social & Behavioral Science
Department	Psychology, Sociology, & Anthropology
Course Type	Academic General Education Course (from ACGM, but not WCJC Core)
Course Catalog Description	Sociological and theoretical analysis of the structures and functions of the family, the varied cultural patterns of the American family, and the relationships that exist among the individuals within the family, as well as the relationships that exist between the family and other institutions in society.
Pre-Requisites	TSI Reading requirements met or concurrent enrollment in INRW 0307
Co-Requisites	Enter Co-Requisites Here.

Semester Credit Hours

Total Semester Credit Hours (SCH): Lecture Hours:	3:3:0
Lab/Other Hours	
Equated Pay Hours	3
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Lab Hours	0
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Clinical Hours	0
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Practicum Hours	0
Other Hours Breakdown	0

Approval Signatures

Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:		
Department Head:		
Division Chair:		
Dean/VPI:		
Approved by CIR:		

Additional Course Information

Topical Outline: Each offering of this course must include the following topics (be sure to include information regarding lab, practicum, and clinical or other non-lecture instruction).

Any course focusing on marriage and family relationships should include at least the following topics/material:

- The social construction and history of “family”
- The major sociological theoretical perspectives on the family
- Comparative traditional and non-traditional families
- The social roles of motherhood, fatherhood, and childhood
- Family diversity
 - a) race and ethnicity
 - b) social class and the family
 - c) modern development of alternative forms of family
 - d) single parent families, cohabitation, childless couples
 - e) current demographic trends in families
- Family crises
 - a) divorce, remarriage, and step-families
 - b) domestic violence and child abuse
 - c) families in poverty
 - d) physical, verbal, and sexual abuse
 - e) self-destructive behaviors
- Psychological needs involving relationships
- Dating behavior
- Mate selection process and theories
- Childrearing theories and practices
- Effective parenting
- Dysfunctional relationships and coping
- Issues of teen and adult children
- Intimacy within relationships
- Interpersonal relations and conflict resolution
- Two-career families and issues of child/day care
- Aging and family relationships
- Grandparents, parents, and children
- Varying social mores within age-specific relationships
- The impact of death within family structures
- Contemporary issues involving the institutions of marriage and family

Course Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcomes – Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the family and marriage as social institutions through theoretical perspectives.
2. Examine the diversity and complexity of contemporary families.
3. Explore changing cultural attitudes about marriage and alternatives to marriage.
4. Critically evaluate such issues as sexuality, partner choice, resolving marital issues, having and raising children, and combining work with family.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between theories and research methods used in the scientific study of marriage and family.
6. Describe some of the historical changes and current trends regarding the structural nature of the American family including the role of gender in relationships.

7. Identify causes and consequences of relevant problems within contemporary families.

Methods of Assessment:

1. Section exam and/or research topic
2. Section exam and/or research topic
3. Section exam and/or research topic
4. Section exam and/or research topic
5. Section exam and/or research topic
6. Section exam and/or research topic
7. Section exam and/or research topic

Required text(s), optional text(s) and/or materials to be supplied by the student:

Newman, R. *Families: A Sociological Perspective*. New York: McGraw-Hill, most recent edition.

Suggested Course Maximum:

35

List any specific or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the course.

None.

Course Requirements/Grading System: Describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course.

Instructors may use the narrative/lecture method of instruction to impart factual information and to elaborate on the topic areas in order to impart practical application of theory. This method of instruction also encourages and enables class discussion.

Class discussion of theory and its practical application is necessary in order for students to enhance their understanding of the terms used in social-psychology, and to fully comprehend the relevance and utility of the material. Discussion is fostered by the use of practical examples, readings, video, and the students own research.

Reading assignments are mandatory and include the text, outside readings, and research as assigned.

Students may be required to complete a research paper or other written assignment, using online technology, the text, and/or recent research which will encourage the use of related, relevant, and current material. Written work may also be required in the form of essay questions on tests and written exercises in class. These requirements are to be designed to challenge the student to analyze, apply, and/or critique the material presented in class.

Minimum requirements must include the following:

- Class attendance in accordance with college policy and as stipulated by the instructor
- Completion of reading assignments made by the instructor
- Understanding of basic research methodology in social psychology
- Encouragement and opportunity to participate in class discussion
- Completion of assigned tests and departmental final assessment

A typical grading composition for this course might look like this:

3-5 exams—50% of final grade

1 term paper or another substantial critical written assignment—25%

1 end-of-course exam—25%

The general grading rubric for tests, papers, and projects will approximate as follows:

90% - 100%=A

80% - 89% =B

70% - 79% =C

60% - 69% =D

Below 60%= F

Curriculum Checklist:

Administrative General Education Course (from ACGM, but not in WCJC Core) – No additional documents needed.

Administrative WCJC Core Course. Attach the Core Curriculum Review Forms

Critical Thinking

Communication

Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Teamwork

Social Responsibility

Personal Responsibility

WECM Course -If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix and Competencies Checklist