

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** SOCI 110 **TITLE:** Courtship, Marriage and the Family **C-ID:** SOCI 130
Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU; UC

AA/AS Degree Requirements:

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science

CSU GE:

CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions

CSU GE Area E: LIFELONG LEARNING AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT: E1

IGETC:

IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

Sociological analysis of the family, including historical and recent changes, present nature and the socio-cultural and economic forces shaping these changes. History and development of marriage as a social institution, including dating; courtship; love; mate selection; personality adjustment in marriage; children; parenthood; the family; anatomical, psychological, and sociological aspects of sex; class and religious factors; divorce; and remarriage. (May not be taken for credit following PSYC 110.)

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of major sociological theories in relation to the social institution of the family
2. Identify and discuss the family from cross-cultural, historical, and political perspectives
3. Identify the intersection among race, ethnicity, class, immigration status, age, class, gender, and sexuality within the family
4. Identify and examine gender, age and socialization within the family
5. Identify and understand the various kinship and family arrangements
6. Describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of major sociological theories in relation to the social institution of the family
2. Identify and discuss the family from cross-cultural, historical, and political perspectives
3. Identify the intersection among race, ethnicity, class, immigration status, age, class, gender, and sexuality within the family
4. Identify and examine gender, age and socialization within the family
5. Identify and understand the various kinship and family arrangements
6. Describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

1. Choices in relationships: an introduction
 - A. Difference between marriage and family; theoretical frameworks for viewing marriage and the family. Discussion of Structural Functionalism, Conflict, and Feminist theories.
 - B. The Family in Historical Perspective
 - C. Traditional Family and Changing Family Forms
2. Gender in relationships
 - A. Theories of gender-role development, specifically Sociobiology, Identification, Social Learning, and Cognitive Development theory; Agents of socialization, cross-cultural variation in gender-roles; consequences of traditional gender-role socialization; changes in gender roles.

3. Love in relationships
 - A. Love in a societal context, theories on the origin of love, including evolutionary, learning, sociological, psychosexual, ego-ideal, ontological, bio-chemical, and attachment theories. Development of love in relationships. Love as a context for problems, such as jealousy.
4. Hanging out, pairing off, and cohabitation
 - A. Meeting a new partner, dating after divorce, cultural and historical background of dating, cohabitation; ending an unsatisfactory relationship,
5. Sexuality in relationships
 - A. Sexual values, alternate sexual values and sexual double standard. Sexual behaviors, sexuality in relationships, prerequisites of sexual fulfillment, sexual dysfunctions of men and women.
6. Singlehood and same sex relationships
 - A. Singles lifestyle, single-parenthood. Same-sex relationships, gay-relationships. Heterosexism, Homonegativity, Homophobia, Biophobia. Discrimination against homosexual and bi-sexual relationships; coming out to family members
7. Mate selection
 - A. Cultural aspects of mate selection; sociological, socio-biological and psychological factors operative in mate selection, engagement; considerations for calling off the wedding.
8. Marriage relationships
 - A. Motivations for and functions of marriage; marriage as a rite of passage and a commitment; changes after marriage; racial and cultural marital diversity; successful marriages.
9. Communication Patterns in relationships
 - A. The nature of interpersonal communication; disclosure, honesty, privacy, and lying; gender differences in communication; theories applied to relationship communication; conflict in relationships, five steps to conflict resolution.
10. Planning children and contraception
 - A. Decisions about becoming a parent or not: number of children, infertility, adoption, foster parenting, contraception, abortion.
11. Parenting
 - A. Roles involved in parenting, choices perspective of parenting, transition to parenthood, facts about parenthood, principles of effective parenting, gay-parenting issues, approaches to childrearing.
12. Balancing work and family life
 - A. Dual-earner marriages, balancing demands of work and family, balancing work and leisure time with family, barriers to leisure
13. Stress and crisis in relationships
 - A. Personal stress and crisis events, positive stress management strategies, harmful strategies, five family crises, marriage and family therapy.
14. Violence and abuse in relationships
 - A. Definitions of violence, physical and emotional abuse; explanations of abuse, abuse in dating and marital relationships, cycle and effects of abuse, general child abuse, sexual abuse of children; parent, sibling, and elder abuse.
15. Divorce: Legal decree and rates in the US Macro and micro factors contributing to divorce, consequences of divorce on spouses, effects of divorce on children, conditions of a "successful" divorce, alternatives to divorce.
16. Remarriage and step-families
 - A. Remarriage, step-families, strengths of step-families, women, men, and children in step-families, developmental tasks for step-families.
17. Aging in marriage and family relationships
 - A. Age and Ageism, care giving for the elderly, issues confronting the elderly, successful aging, relationships at age 85 and beyond, grandparenthood, the end of one's life.
18. Future of Family

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Guest Speakers

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Students write essays synthesizing films, readings and lectures as well as in class essay exam questions.

Reading Assignments:

Students read weekly assignments from the text.

Other Outside Assignments:

Library orientation to social science databases to write about two web-based articles and one current events article.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Exams/Tests
- C. Papers
- D. Quizzes
- E. Written examination

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Benokraitis, Nijole. *Marriages and Families: Changes, Choices and Constraints*, 8th ed. Pearson, 2014
- B. Lamanna, M., Reidman, A., and Stewart S.. *Marriages and Families: Making Choices in a Diverse Society*, 12th ed. Cengage Learning, 2014
- C. Strong, Bryan, DeVault, Christine, and Cohen, Theodore F.. *The Marriage and Family Experience. Intimate Relationships in a Changing Society*, 11th ed. Cengage, 2010
- D. Williams, B., S. Sawyer., C Wahlstrom. *Marriages, families, and intimate relationships.*, 5 ed. Pearson, 2020

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Effective Term: Fall 2022

Course Originator: Minu Mathur