

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: February 1, 2010

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 3, 2010

Effective: Fall 2010

**1. Course Number: SOC210**

**Course Title: Marriage and Family: Sociology of Family Interaction and Organization**

**2. Description.** Study of the social aspects of family life and the impact of society upon families. Topics include historical forms of family life, varieties of contemporary families, the effects of changing cultural values and economic forces upon the daily life and stability of families, gender, the and the social psychology of love and romance, sex, parenting, and divorce. This course also covers family policy issues.

**3. Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:

- describe the historical transformation of intimate and family life and relate the distinctive features of traditional, modern and contemporary families
- describe the functions of marriage and family for society and for individuals
- relate the major theoretical perspectives on the family:
- describe the impact of social class, race and ethnic background on the formation and functioning of families
- relate theories of gender identity development and describe how gender roles effect intimate relationships and family life
- describe social and cultural factors affecting the emergence of intimacy, commitment and passion in intimate relationships
- describe the social context of dating, marriage, staying single and forming non-conventional intimate partnerships
- describe the social factors shaping sexual expression and relationships and societal consequences of sexual activity
- describe the social organization of parenting and child rearing and compare and contrast competing theories of child development and parenting
- relate the impact of economic status and work roles on family functioning
- describe the social and cultural roots of family violence and analyze the impact of family violence upon family members and society
- describe the divorce experience and relate the social forces shaping the divorce rate and the social consequences of divorce and other forms of family breakdown
- analyze the major cultural and political debates about family life
- analyze current social policies affecting the family and compare and contrast competing family policy proposals
- identify biases in studies of and political discussions about families
- prepare, develop and present a policy which identifies something things communities, workplaces and/or government could do to assist those trying to care for themselves and others in their families

**4. Credits:** Three credits

**5. Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences

**6. Prerequisite:** SOC106

**7. Semester(s) Offered:** Fall

**8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Student grades are based on examination grades, attendance and participation and completion of research papers and projects. Examinations include objective, short answer questions and essay questions. Papers require application of course concepts and additional research.

**9. General Topical Outline (Optional):**

- Theoretical Perspectives on Families and Methods
- Political Conflicts Surrounding the Study of the Family
- Research Methods in Family Studies
- History of Families and Marriage: Diversity and Challenges
- Sex, Romance, Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage
- Childbirth, Childrearing
- Family Roles and Relationships: Marital, Parental, Child and Others
- Economy, Work and Family Life, Diversity and Challenges
- Family Violence, Violence against Families
- Family Policy