

Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: SOC 200 (IAI S7 902)

Course Title: Sociology of Marriage and the Family

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 45.1101

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Sociological investigation into the processes involved in forming marriage and family life such as: the impact of social institutions on marriage and family structure; various marriage structures and their results; and interaction of family members. Exploration of other intimate and interpersonal relationships.

General Course Objectives

- This course will provide the student with a systematic introduction from a sociological perspective to the most basic of human social groups - the family.
- This course will examine how contemporary American family structure and relationships are shaped by the larger society and how they, in turn, impact society.
- This course will take students beyond their taken-for-granted understandings of family structures, marriage, and intimate relationships to a broader understanding of the wide array of family structures and intimate relationships found across cultures.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 098	None	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation will include a combination of subjective and objective assessments. There will be a minimum of 6 quizzes or exams including the final. There will be a minimum of 3 activities/application exercises or projects. There will be a minimum of 15 pages of writing required.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Marriages and Families: Changes, Choices, and Constraints, by Nijole Benokraitis. 978-0134720166

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction to Sociology and Social Scientific Orientations: 1) What is Sociology?, 2) Social Scientific Orientations, 3) Research Methods	1. Identify the subject matter and objectives of sociology. 2. Describe Family as a social institution, its characteristics, and its functions. 3. Describe major theoretical perspectives used in sociology and the implications of using each perspective. 4. Analyze family behavior using various theoretical perspectives. 5. Describe research methods used frequently by sociologists. 6. Analyze patterns and trends in dating and intimate relationships across age, social class, and gender.	10	0	0
Family Study: 1) Analysis of Kin, Family, and Marital Structure, 2) Cross-Cultural Comparison, 3) The American Family in Socio-Historical Perspective	1. Describe and cite examples of kin groups and family and marital structures. 2. Describe the various forms of family structure found in American society.	8	0	0
Human Sexuality and Mate Selection: 1) Gender Roles, 2) Sexual Behavior, 3) Historical Overview of American Courtship Patterns and Cross-Cultural Comparisons, 4) Explanations of Mate Selection/Attraction and Love, 5) Intimate Relationships	1. Explain the impact of gender role socialization on sexuality, intimate relationships, and family structure by providing examples of behavior. 2. Describe various forms of American courtship/mate selection from the colonial period to the present and identify cross-cultural comparisons. 3. Analyze the mate selection process using various theories of mate selection, attraction, and love. 4. Categorize several forms of intimate relationships and compare and contrast their characteristics.	9	0	0
Marriage: 1) Historical Development - a. Social Institution; b. Legal Entity; c. Personal/Intimate Relationship, 2) Marital Adjustment and Communication, 3) The Parental System, 4) Marital Satisfaction	1. Explain marriage as a social institution, a legal entity, and a personal relationship. 2. Explain the reasons marriage is constituted in law in modern industrial society, the implications of the marriage contract as defined in statutory provisions of case law, and the significance of common law marriage. 3. Describe the source and form of common marital adjustment problems. 4. Analyze common forms of contemporary parenting and the impact of parents on children and children on parents. 5. Evaluate the impact of the family life cycle upon marital satisfaction.	9	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Ending Marriage and Remarriage: 1) Bereavement, 2) Desertion, 3) Legal Endings	1. List and describe the several types of legally prescribed marital endings. 2. Describe the social, personal, and legal consequences of divorce. 3. Describe the factors involved in remarriage and discuss the restructuring involved in blended families.	9	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0