

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK**



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**SOCI 210 - SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY**

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**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS  
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT  
APRIL, 2015**

SOCI 210 - SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

- A. TITLE: Sociology of the Family
- B. COURSE NUMBER: SOCI 210
- C. CREDIT HOURS: 3 hours
- D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE: no
- E. COURSE LENGTH: 15 weeks
- F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: Fall and Spring
- G. HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY: 3 hours
- H. CATALOG DESCRIPTION: The study of family as a key social unit with the emphasis on structure, functions, problems and future of the institution. Cross-cultural comparisons, the relationship between the family and other institutions, and family-related policies is also discussed.
- I. PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES: No prerequisite
- J. GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):  
By the end of this course, the student will:

<i>Course Objective</i>	<i>Institutional SLO</i>
a. Define the basic concepts, theories, and research methods pertinent to the sociology of the family.	2. Crit. Thinking
b. Apply concepts and theories to a particular case	2. Crit. Thinking
c. Identify and explain both the forces for stability and the causes of major social change that have had positive and negative effects on the contemporary family.	1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking
d. Compare the American family structure and functioning at different periods in American history and with families from other cultures.	2. Critical Thinking
e. Contrast the functioning of American families stratified by issues such as race and ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, and religion; and consider issues of stereotyping and discrimination.	2. Critical Thinking 4. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills
f. Explain several contemporary issues that confront American families, such as the influence of gender on family functioning; caring relationships; human sexuality; cohabitation and marriage; work and child care; domestic violence; divorce; and aging.	1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking 4. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills

K. TEXTS: Text listed below or chosen at the discretion of the professor:

Seccombe K. (2011). *Families and Their Social Worlds*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

L. REFERENCES:

Babbie, E. (2012). *The Practice of Social Research*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.

Benokraitis, N. (2008). *Marriages and Families*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Myerhoff, B. (1980). *Number Our Days*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Rubin, L. (1992). *World's of Pain*. New York: Basic Books.

Skolnick, A. and Skolnick, J. (2010). *Family in Transition*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Stack, C. (1990). *All Our Kin*. New York: Harper and Row.

Turner, J. (2002). *The Structure of Sociological Theory*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co.

Walker, L. (2009). *The Battered Woman Syndrome*. New York: Springer.

White, James and Klein, D. (2007). *Family Theories*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Willie, C. & Reddick, R. (2010). *A New Look at Black Families*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Zinn, M. B., Eitzen, D. S., & Wells, B. (2010) *Diversity in Families*. New York: Harper Collins.

M. EQUIPMENT: Technology enhanced classroom.

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

- Quizzes
- Exams
- Papers
- Participation

P. TOPICAL OUTLINE

I. Introduction

A. Definitions of the Family

1. Government

2. US Census Bureau

B. Relationships

1. fictive kin

C. Functions of the family

## II. Sociological imagination

- A. Sociologic Theoretical Perspectives
  - 1. Symbolic-Interactionist Perspective
  - 2. Structural-Functionalist Perspective
  - 3. Social-Conflict Perspective
  - 4. Feminist Perspective

## III. Social Science Research

- A. Steps in the Research Process
- B. Research Methods
- .,C. Social Changes Affecting Families and Society
  - 1. Inventions and Discoveries
  - 2. Diffusion
  - 3. Domination
  - 4. Social Structural Changes
    - a. Demographic Shifts
    - b. Economic Shifts

## IV. History of the Family

- A. Family Structures and Kinship Systems
  - 1. Family Structures
  - 2. Lineage Systems
  - 3. Marriage - Definition and Types
- B. Six Economic Systems in Human Societies
  - 1. Hunting and Gathering
  - 2. Horticultural
  - 3. Pastoral
  - 4. Settled Agriculture
  - 5. Industrial
  - 6. Service/Technology
- C. Modes of Production
  - 1. Early Colonies - Familial Mode of Production
  - 2. Late 1700's - Labor Market Mode of Production

## V. Gender

- A. Definitions and Cultural Variations
  - 1. Sex
  - 2. Gender
  - 3. Gender Roles
- B. Biology and Social Learning
  - 1. Biosocial Influences
  - 2. Social Learning - Goode

## VI. Socialization

- 1. Parental
- 2. Mass Media
- 3. Peer Groups

## VII. Loving Relationships, Dating, Cohabitation, and Marriage

- A. Historical Patterns in the US
  - 1. Courtship - early colonies-1900
  - 2. Dating 1900-1980's
- B. Contemporary Patterns
  - 1. Six Contemporary Functions of Dating - Benokraitis
  - 2. Variations in Coming of Age Customs and Courtship Customs

- in Different Groups
- 3. Contemporary Partnering
  - a. Influence of Internet dating
- C. Independent Living and Cohabitation
  - 1. Independent Living
  - 2. Cohabitation
- D. Sexual Orientation
  - 1. Legality of Marriage
  - 2. Impact on families and children
- E. Marriage
  - 1. The Contemporary Marriage Market
  - 2. The Changing Marriage Bargain
  - 3. Types of Marriage Patterns in the US
  - 4. Benefits of Marriage
    - a. 1,400 laws protecting families
- F. Cross-Cultural Comparisons
  - 1. China
  - 2. India
  - 3. Muslim Societies
- G. Sociological Theories
  - 1. Sociobiology
  - 2. Social Exchange

## VIII. Family and Work

- A. Shift from Single Earner to Dual Career
  - 1. Married Mothers Entrance into the Labor Force
  - 2. Expansion of Service Sector Jobs
  - 3. Effects of these Shifts on Family and Marriage Patterns
- B. Dual Career Marriages
  - 1. Effects of the Dual Career Lifestyle on Family Members
  - 2. Strategies for Balancing Demands of Family and Work

## IX. Family Customs and Traditions

- A. Black American Families
  - 1. Historical background and continuing influences
    - a. Before 1960
    - b. 1960's
    - c. After the Civil Rights Movement - Present
- B. Hispanic American Families
  - 1. Historical background and continuing influences
  - 2. Impact of illegal immigration
  - 3. Largest minority in US
    - a. Spanish speaking
    - b. Cultural impacts
- C. Asian American Families
  - 1. Historical background and continuing influences
  - 2. Model minority
- D. Native American Families
  - 1. Historical background and continuing influences

## X. Parents and Children

- A. Micro Level - Parental Influences on Child Development
  - 1. Functions of the Family
  - 2. Types of Parenting Styles
  - 3. Socialization and Social Class
  - 4. Father's Roles and Mother's Roles
- B. Macro Level or Societal Influences on Parents and Children
  - 1. Rapid Social Change
  - 2. Historical Comparison of Child Well-Being

## XI. Domestic Violence

- A. Historical Background of Domestic Violence in the US
  - 1. Public Family in Early New England Colonies
  - 2. Private Family in late 1800's Industrial Economy
  - 3. 1900 - Present
- B. Four Types of Abuse
  - 1. Physical Abuse
  - 2. Physical Neglect
  - 3. Sexual Abuse
  - 4. Emotional Abuse
- C. Early Warning Signs
- D. Theories
  - 1. Lenore Walker - Cycle Theory of Abuse
  - 2. Social Learning
  - 3. Frustration-Aggression
  - 4. Social-Exchange Perspective
- E. Explanations of Why Women Stay

## XII. Divorce, Single Parent Families, and Remarriage

- A. Divorce Statistics and Basic Facts
- B. Divorce in US History
- C. Causes of Divorce Rates in US
  - 1. Macro Level Factors - Life Expectancy, Fertility, and Social Factors
  - 2. Micro Level Factors -
- D. The Process of Separation, Divorce, and Remarriage
  - 1. Prior to Divorce
  - 2. Divorce and Remarriage Process
- E. Step Families and Blended Families
  - 1. Unique Characteristics
  - 2. Statistics

### XIII. Aging and the Family

#### A. Historical Trends and Cross-Cultural Comparisons

1. Medical discoveries increasing life expectancy rates
2. Declining fertility rates and family care
3. Increasing divorce rates and family care

#### B. The Middle-Aged "Sandwich Generation"

1. Care for a frail aging parent/ older relative
2. Care for adult children and grandchildren (due to divorce, unwed parenthood, imprisonment or other crises)

#### C. The Oldest Generation of the "Frail Aged"

### XIV. Conclusion - Summary of the Most Important Changes in the American Family

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: Not applicable