COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI 210 - SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

Prepared By: Diane L. Muehl, Ph.D.
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:  

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<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. Define the basic concepts, theories, and research methods pertinent to the sociology of the family.</td>
<td>2. Crit. Thinking</td>
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<td>b. Apply concepts and theories to a particular case</td>
<td>2. Crit. Thinking</td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>1. Communication, 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>d. Compare the American family structure and functioning at different periods in American history and with families from other cultures.</td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking, 4. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills</td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>1. Communication, 2. Critical Thinking, 4. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills</td>
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K. **TEXTS:** Text listed below or chosen at the discretion of the professor:


L. **REFERENCES:**


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 - Benokraits
      2. Variations in Coming of Age Customs and Courtship Customs
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