

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



MASTER SYLLABUS

SOCI 210 – SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

CIP Code: 45.1101

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Updated by: Kimberly Boyd

**School of Business and Liberal Arts
Social Sciences Department
Spring 2026**

A. TITLE: Sociology of the Family

B. COURSE NUMBER: SOCI 210

C. CREDIT HOURS (Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial, Activity):

# Credit Hours per Week	3
# Lecture Hours per Week	3

D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:

No	X
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E. GER CATEGORY: 7

Does course satisfy a GER category(ies)? If so, please select all that apply.

[7] Social Sciences	X
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F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:

Fall and Spring	X
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G. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students will study the 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 are also discussed.

H. PRE-REQUISITES: None

CO-REQUISITES: None

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

<u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u>	<u>GER 7</u>	<u>ISLO & Sub- Sets</u>
a. Define the basic concepts, theories, and research methods pertinent to the sociology of the family.	1	#2 Critical Thinking: IA
b. 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	#2 Critical Thinking: PS

c. Compare the American family structure and functioning at different periods in American history and with families from other cultures.	1	#2 Critical Thinking: IA
d. 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.	1	#2 Critical Thinking: IA
e. 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 childcare; domestic violence; divorce; and aging.	1	#2 Critical Thinking: PS
GER 7 Students will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. describe major concepts and theories of at least one discipline in the social sciences; and 2. demonstrate an understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena. 		

KEY	Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]
3	Foundational Skills Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]
4	Social Responsibility Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:

No	X
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K. TEXTS: To be determined by the instructor.

L. REFERENCES:

Benokraitis, N. (2015). *Marriages and Families*. 8th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Cohen, P. (2018, July). *The family*. 3rd Ed. W.W. Norton Publishing
<https://digital.wwnorton.com/thefamily3>

Chaycko, Mary. *Superconnected*. 3rd edition. Sage Publishing.

Conley, Dalton. (2019) *You May Ask Yourself*. 6th edition. W.W. Norton.

Ferris, Kerry. (2020) *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology*. W.W. Norton.

Griffiths, Heather. Openstax, *Sociology* 2e. Rice University

Hite, Kristen A. (2016) *Global Issues: An Introduction*. 5th edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

Inderbitzen, Michelle. *Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective*. Sage Publishing

Johnson, Allan. (2018) *Power, Privilege and Difference*. 3rd edition. McGraw Hill.

Lauer, R. (2019) *Marriages and Families*, 9th edition. McGraw Hill.

Miller-Perrin, Cyndi. (2017) *Violence and Maltreatment in Intimate Relationships*. Ritzer, George. (2019) *Introduction to Sociology* 5. Sage Publishing.
Ritzer, George. (2019) *Essentials of Sociology*. Sage Publishing.

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Technology Enhanced Classroom / Learning Management System

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**
Exams • Quizzes • Assignments • Participation/Discussion

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. Introduction

- a. Definitions of the Family
- b. Government
- c. US Census Bureau
- d. Relationships
- e. Fictive kin
- f. Functions of the family

II. Sociological imagination

- a. Social Science Research
- b. History of the Family
- c. Gender

III. Socialization A. Sociologic Theoretical Perspectives

- a. Symbolic-Interactionist Perspective
- b. Structural-Functionalist Perspective
- c. Social-Conflict Perspective
- d. Feminist Perspective

IV. Social Changes Affecting Families and Society

- a. Inventions and Discoveries
- b. Diffusion
- c. Domination
- d. Social Structural Changes
- e. Demographic Shifts
- f. Economic Shifts
- g. Family Structures and Kinship Systems
- h. Family Structures
- i. Lineage Systems
- j. Marriage -Definition and Types

V. Six Economic Systems in Human Societies

- a. Hunting and Gathering
- b. Horticultural
- c. Pastoral
- d. Settled Agriculture
- e. Industrial
- f. Service/Technology

VI. Modes of Production

- a. Early Colonies -Familial Mode of Production
- b. Late 1700's -Labor Market Mode of Production
- c. Definitions and Cultural Variations
- d. Sex
- e. Gender
- f. Gender Roles
- g. Biology and Social Learning
- h. Biosocial Influences
- i. Social Learning -Goode
- j. Parental
- k. Mass Media
- l. Peer Groups

VII. Loving Relationships, Dating, Cohabitation, and Marriage

- a. Historical Patterns in the US
- b. Courtship -early colonies-1900
- c. Dating 1900-1980's
- d. Contemporary Patterns
- e. Six Contemporary Functions of Dating
- f. Variations in Coming-of-Age Customs and Courtship Customs in Different Groups
- g. Contemporary Partnering
- h. Influence of Internet dating
- i. Independent Living and Cohabitation
- j. Independent Living
- k. Cohabitation
- l. Sexual Orientation
- m. Legality of Marriage
- n. Impact on families and children
- o. Marriage
- p. The Contemporary Marriage Market
- q. The Changing Marriage Bargain
- r. Types of Marriage Patterns in the US
- s. Benefits of Marriage
- t. 1,400 laws protecting families

VIII. Cross-Cultural Comparisons

- a. China
- b. India
- c. Muslim Societies

VIII. Sociological Theories

- a. Sociobiology
- b. Social Exchange

A. Family and Work

- a. Strategies for Balancing Demands of Family and Work
- b. Historical background and continuing influences
- c. Before 1960
- d. After the Civil Rights Movement -Present
- e. Historical background and continuing influences
- f. Impact of illegal immigration
- g. Largest minority in US
- h. Cultural impacts
- i. Parents and Children Micro Level -Parental Influences on Child Development
- j. Functions of the Family
- k. Types of Parenting Styles
- l. Socialization and Social Class
- m. Macro Level or Societal Influences on Parents and Children
- n. Rapid Social Change
- o. Historical Comparison of Child Well-Being

B. Domestic Violence

- a. Historical Background of Domestic Violence in the US
- b. Public Family in Early New England Colonies
- c. Private Family in late 1800's Industrial Economy
- d. 1900 -Present
- e. Four Types of Abuse

C. Early Warning Signs

- a. Theories
- b. Lenore Walker -Cycle Theory of Abuse
- c. Social Learning
- d. Frustration-Aggression
- e. Social-Exchange Perspective

D. Divorce, Single Parent Families, and Remarriage

- a. Divorce Statistics and Basic Facts
- b. Divorce in US History
- c. Macro Level Factors -Life Expectancy, Fertility, and Social Factors
- d. Micro Level Factors
- e. The Process of Separation, Divorce, and Remarriage
- f. Step Families and Blended Families

- E. Aging and the Family
 - a. Historical Trends and Cross-Cultural Comparisons
 - b. Medical discoveries increasing life expectancy rates
 - c. Declining fertility rates and family care
 - d. Increasing divorce rates and family care
 - e. The Middle-Aged "Sandwich Generation"
 - f. Care for a frail aging parent/ older relative
 - g. Care for adult children and grandchildren
 - h. The Oldest Generation of the "Frail Aged"