

Effective Date: Spring 2009

New  Revised  
(Check One)

## COURSE OUTLINE

**COURSE PREFIX and NUMBER:** SOC 215

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**COURSE TITLE:** Sociology of the Family

**PREREQUISITES:** English placement recommendation for English 111 or successful completion of English 1 and 4 if required by Reading placement test. Corequisite: English 5 and English 107 if recommended by reading placement test.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Studies topics such as marriage and family in social and cultural context. Addresses the single scene, dating and marriage styles, child-rearing, husband and wife interaction, single parent families, alternative lifestyles. Prerequisite: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or co-requisite: ENG 5 and ENG 107 if recommended by reading placement test. Lecture 3 hours per week.

### MAJOR TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- A. Marriage and family in social and historical context
- B. Various family systems
- C. Preparation for marriage (dating, romantic love, cohabitation)
- D. Marital and family adjustments—social, sexual, financial, in-laws, expanding/contracting family, aging parents
- E. Stages in family life and what can be expected
- F. Future of the family and family policies
- G. Theoretical and practical ideas concerning communication and human needs.

**GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- A. Understand and appreciate the complexities of marriage and family
- B. Identify and explain key areas of discord and adjustment in relationships
- C. Communicate more effectively in his/her interpersonal relationships, demonstrating listening, problem solving, and oral communication skills
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of human sexuality—its physiological and emotional processes
- E. Explain the purposes of marriage and the family, for society and for the individual
- F. Identify the necessary attributes of a successful relationship/marriage and family
- G. Explain how and why marriage and family are important social institutions
- H. Identify the social forces operative upon marriage and the family, and how they affect the individuals in those institutions, as well as the institutions themselves
- I. Identify the cultural forces that affect relationships, marriages, and families
- J. Differentiate between the various forms of marriage and family existent in our own, as well as other societies
- K. Employ an objective approach to his/her own personal life, using reasoning skills and critical examination of information
- L. Describe and explain the human reproductive processes
- M. Explain how the economic system of a society affects relationships, marriages, and families
- N. Understand and appreciate the familial role systems of various societies
- O. Differentiate between stereotypes and scientific generalizations/conclusions, and distinguish between arguments that are strong and relevant and those that are weak and irrelevant to a particular question at issue
- P. Demonstrate competency in locating, understanding, organizing, and applying information