

This course satisfies Social Science and General Education requirements. It is a preferred elective in the Human Services option and in the Women's and Gender Studies certificate.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Introduction to marriage and family: ideas, concepts and definitions
- B. Theory and research methods
- C. Love, gender and sexuality as influences on marriage and family
- D. The history of the Western family: influences of the Hebrews, Greeks and Romans
- E. Non-Western family patterns: Chinese and Muslim families
- F. The early European descended family
- G. Ethnic and racial differences in family
- H. Families and the economy: influence of social class
- I. Parents and children
- J. Family violence and other family crises
- K. Separation and divorce
- L. Remarriage and stepfamilies
- M. Aging and the family cycle
- N. New family forms and the future of the family

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

Educational Goals

The student will:

- define terms relevant to marriage and family (G. E. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7);
- understand theories and research methods in family science (G. E. 2, 3, 5, and 7);
- identify and compare the historical Western and non-Western influences on the family life (G. E. 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7);
- identify the complex interrelationships between parents and children (G. E. 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7);
- understand the dynamics involved in family violence and other family crises (G. E. 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7);
- appreciate how social locators, such as race, ethnicity, religion and social class are influence by family life (G. E. 3, 6 and 7);
- understand the interrelationships of love, gender and sexuality (G. E. 7); and
- understand the processes of social change that impact on marriage and the family (G. E. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7).

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this class, the student will be able to:

- compare, contrast, and apply the basic relevant theories and define the steps of the research process as they pertain to the study of marriage and family;
- define, identify, and explain key concepts relating to marriage and family;
- explain the diversity that exists in families historically, cross culturally and across racial, ethnic, religious and social class groupings;
- describe the complexity of the child/parental relationship;
- describe and provide examples of family crises;
- student will identify and interpret the impact of basic demographic trends in society as they pertain to marriage and family; and
- integrate concepts and theories to speculate on the trends in marriage and family that we may see in the future.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- lecture/discussion
- small-group work
- computer-assisted instruction
- student oral presentations
- student collaboration
- independent study

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

Given the outcomes described above, the following assessment methods may be used:

- research papers
- essays
- journals
- quizzes and examinations
- annotated bibliographies
- article critiques

IX. Grade Determinants

Grades will be determined based on scores on participation, quizzes and exams, short papers and a longer research paper.

- Class participation
- Individual and group presentations
- Short reaction papers
- Research paper
- Quizzes and examinations

X. Textbook and Materials

Some suggested texts:

Matthew Levering, 2005. On Marriage and Family: Classic and Contemporary Texts. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Bryan Strong, Theodore F. Cohen and Christine DeVault. 2004. The Marriage and Family Experience. Belmont, California: Wadsworth.

XI. Resources

Students will need access to sociological databases in order to locate and retrieve journal articles for research related to various topics in the field. Online databases and journals are acceptable as long as students are able to access full-text online articles from peer-reviewed research journals.