

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI 202 Marriage & Family

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: SOCI 202 Marriage & Family

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2020

D. Effective term: Fall 2020

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work & Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0

Out of class student work per week: 6 hours

H. Prerequisite: SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology

I. Laboratory Fees: none

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair:

Brandyn Heppard, brandyn.heppard@raritanval.edu

Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Patrice Marks, Patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology

This course examines the background of marriage and family systems. Students will examine trends and issues affecting families using sociological theories and methods. Attention is given to topics such as the history of families, purpose of families, family diversity, love, gender roles, sexuality, family violence, communication and conflict, divorce, remarriage, step-families, and aging families.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. Marriage and Family is historically one of the most heavily enrolled Sociology electives. It provides insights into contemporary marital and family concerns while providing both a historical and cross-cultural analysis of family systems. The course uses critical thinking, information literacy, and ethical reasoning and action to understand and address current issues related to families and romantic relationships. This course is an elective in the RVCC Social Sciences A.A. degree and Human Services / Pre-Social Work A.S. degree. It is required for the RVCC Health Science, A.S. degree. This course transfers to the vast majority of NJ colleges.
- B. No lab component
- C. This course generally transfers as an elective in Sociology programs.
- D. This course generally transfers as an elective in Social Science programs.
- E. This course generally transfers as a free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This is a required course for the Health Science, A.S. degree. It is a preferred elective in the Human Services / Pre-Social Work A.S. degree. It is an elective for the Social Sciences A.A. degree.
- C. To see course transferability for New Jersey colleges and universities, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; for other colleges and universities, go to the individual college website.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Introduction to marriage and family
 - 1. Ideas, concepts and definitions
 - 2. Theories
 - 3. Research methods
- B. Diversity of the family
 - 1. Historical changes in patterns
 - 2. Western family patterns
 - 3. Non-Western family patterns
 - 4. Ethnic and racial differences in families
- C. Interpersonal Factors
 - 1. Gender
 - 2. Love
 - 3. Sexuality
 - 4. Communication
 - 5. Parent-child relations
- D. Challenges
 - 1. Family conflict
 - 2. Family violence

3. Crises that affect the family
4. Families and the economy
- E. Changing family structures
 1. Separation and divorce
 2. Remarriage and stepfamilies
 3. Aging and the family cycle
 4. New family forms and the future of the family

VI. General Educational and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Educational Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Evaluate current issues surrounding families and romantic relationships with sociological theories (GE – 1, 5, ER)
2. Use sociological research methods to study an area of families or romantic relationships (GE – 1, 5, ER, IL)
3. Assess the way social locators, such as race, ethnicity, religion, social class, geographic location, and time period influence family life (GE – 1, 5, 7, 8)
4. Identify the complex interrelationships between parents and children (GE - 1, 5, 7)
5. Discuss the dynamics of and construct problem solving techniques for family crises (GE - 1, 5, 8, ER, IL)
6. Illustrate the interrelationships of love, gender and sexuality (GE – 1, 5, 8)
7. Explain issues affecting families today through effective oral and written communication (GE – 1, ER, IL)

B. Course Learning Outcomes

1. Evaluate current issues surrounding families and romantic relationships with sociological theories
2. Discover the diversity that exists in families historically, cross culturally, and across racial, ethnic, religious and social class groupings
3. Explain issues affecting families today through effective oral and written communication
4. Construct problem solving techniques that can be used during family crises
5. Assess arguments from experts in the field (including guest speakers)

C. Assessment Instruments

- A. Research projects (LO- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- B. Presentations (LO- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- C. Essays (LO- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- D. Journals (LO- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- E. Exams (LO – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Research projects
- B. Presentations
- C. Essays
- D. Journals
- E. Exams

Given the goals and outcomes described above, the primary modes of teaching and learning may be used in the course:

- A. Lecture/discussion
- B. Small-group work
- C. Guest speakers
- D. Student oral presentations
- E. Simulation/role playing
- F. Student collaboration
- G. Instructional media platforms

VIII. Textbook and Materials

Robert H. Lauer and Jeanette C. Lauer. (2018). Marriage & Family: The Quest for Intimacy (9th Edition). McGraw Hill. New York: NY. ISBN 9780078027116

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. Library with research tools
- B. Photocopy machine
- C. WiFi
- D. Computer lab