

Course Outline
Marriage and Family

Course Description:

BS210. Marriage and Family. 3 hours credit. This course will review the place of marriage and family in our society, but more importantly, marriage and family as personal relationships will be studied including topics such as courtship, roles, rearing children, influence of occupations, divorce, alternatives, and the value of good communication.

Textbook:

Lamanna, Mary Ann and Riedmann, Agnes (2002). *Marriages and Families*, (8th Edition). Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Course Objectives:

At the successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss general issues regarding the sociological study of the family
 - a. Define family and discuss issues regarding choices affecting the family
 - b. Examine the theoretical perspectives of family
 - c. Discuss issues of gender and socialization.
2. Discuss issues of the couple in society
 - a. Discuss love and self-esteem
 - b. Evaluate how issues of sexuality affect relationships
 - c. Examine attitudes, issues and trends affecting single people and relationships.
3. Define marriage and commitment
 - a. Discuss commitment
 - b. Discuss various aspects and issues of the marriage relationship
 - c. Discuss issues regarding communication and conflict resolution in relationships
 - d. Practice good communication and conflict resolution techniques
 - e. Recognize how power, violence, and abuse affect relationships.
4. Evaluate the family in society
 - a. Discuss the decisions adults face as they contemplate becoming parents
 - b. Explore the various issues of parenting and grandparenting over the life course
 - c. Evaluate how work and careers affect family relationships.
5. Evaluate family change and crisis
 - a. Evaluate how stress and crisis affect the family
 - b. Evaluate issues that families face as they deal with divorce
 - c. Evaluate issues that families face as they deal with remarriage and stepfamilies

- d. Analyze aging and the family.

Topical Outline of Units:

- I. The sociological study of the family
 - a. Define family
 - b. Theoretical perspectives of family
 - c. Gender and socialization.
- II. The couple in society
 - a. Love and self-esteem
 - b. Issues of sexuality and relationships
 - c. Attitudes, issues and trends affecting single people and relationships.
- III. Define marriage and commitment
 - a. Commitment
 - b. Aspects and issues of the marriage relationship
 - c. Communication and conflict resolution in relationships
 - d. Communication and conflict resolution techniques
 - e. Power, violence, and abuse.
- IV. Evaluate the family in society
 - a. Decisions adults face as they contemplate becoming parents
 - b. Parenting and grandparenting over the life course
 - c. Work and careers.
- V. Evaluate family change and crisis
 - a. Stress and crisis
 - b. Divorce and the family
 - c. Remarriage and blended families
 - d. Aging and the family.

Method of Instruction:

The following teaching/learning activities will assist students to achieve course objectives: lecture, class discussion, films, discussion papers, guest speakers, group work, professional journals, and out-of-class assignments.

Method Of Evaluation:

A minimum of three tests will be given during the semester. Grades will be determined on the basis of attendance, tests, and assignments as assigned by the instructor.

TELECOURSE:

Text:

Lamanna, Mary Ann and Riedmann, Agnes (2002). *Marriages and Families*, (8th Edition). Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Student Telecourse Guide:

Portrait of a Family, Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Videos:

Portrait of a Family Video Series.

Method of Instruction for Telecourse:

Independent study of audio/video materials augmented by text and study guide; collaboration and participation with class members and faculty via available means. Faculty role is facilitator of learning experiences.

Online Course:

Text:

Lamanna, Mary Ann and Riedmann, Agnes (2002). Marriages and Families, (8th Edition). Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Student Telecourse Guide:

Portrait of a Family, Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Videos:

Portrait of a Family Video Series.

Methods of Instruction for Online Course:

The following online teaching/learning activities will assist students to achieve course objectives: posted web pages, threaded discussions, written assignments, assigned reading, and interaction with instructor through e-mail and discussion boards.