

COURSE OUTLINE **Marriage and Family**

Course Description

BS 210. Marriage and Family. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student to gain an appreciation of the place of marriage and family within our society. The student will analyze tools to help in professional as well as personal relationships. The student will examine dating, courtship and love, gender issues, sexuality, parenting, divorce, blended families, and effective communication techniques.

Course Relevance

The concepts learned in this course will give students tools to increase the effectiveness of their relationships with their partner, children, and co-workers.

Required Materials

Benokraitis, N. V. (2008). *Marriages & families: changes, choices, and constraints*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Telecourse/Online Materials

Benokraitis, N. V. (2008). *Marriages & families: changes, choices, and constraints*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Our families, Ourselves on DVD, Twenty-six 30-minutes lessons

Telecourse guide: Learning course e-guide, Intelcom.

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to:

1. Develop and use a variety of skills and tools to develop satisfying relationships in a complex world.

Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through involvement in this course, the student will develop ability in the following PACT skill area(s):

Personal Development Skills

1. Interpersonal interaction
 - Through the activities conducted in class, the student will develop and enhance personal relationship skills that apply to the family, at the workplace, and in social settings.

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcome(s) and the Learning PACT skill(s) will be demonstrated by:

1. Completion of the following essay – Describe how your philosophies and skills with regard to relationships have changed as a result of this course. Discuss these changes as they apply to:
 - A. The family
 - B. The workplace
 - C. The society as a whole

Course Content

- I. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Writing
 - B. Reading
 - C. Utilizing computer and internet skills
 - D. Thinking analytically
 - E. Ability of compare and contrast
 - F. Memorization of terms
 - G. Application of concepts

Learning Units

- I. Evaluate developing relationships
 - A. Discuss dating and the development of intimacy
 - B. Examine changing demographics that affect relationships
 - C. Examine the historical perspectives on the family
 - D. Examine theoretical perspectives of family
 - E. Review research methods
 - F. Discuss issues of gender and socialization
- II. Evaluate how relationships are maintained
 - A. Discuss the origin and theory of love
 - B. Examine issues involving dating, courtship, and cohabitation
 - C. Examine interpersonal sexuality, sexual values and behavior
- III. Evaluate marriage
 - A. Discuss commitment
 - B. Analyze different types of marriage relationships
 - C. Recognize what makes successful marriages
 - D. Examine alternative lifestyles
 - E. Examine the importance of effective communication
- IV. Examine the impact of parenting and work
 - A. Discuss issues involved in reproduction
 - B. Examine the different types of contraception
 - C. Discuss the impact of teen pregnancy
 - D. Discuss the adjustment to parenting
 - E. Discuss effective parenting styles
 - F. Discuss changes over the family life cycle
 - G. Evaluate the problems associated with balancing work and family life

- V. Evaluate ways to manage relationships amid family change and crisis
 - A. Discuss 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 blended families

Learning Activities

Classroom: Classroom activities include lecture, instructor-led class discussions, group study, field trips, library research, various audio/visual aids, case studies, guest speakers, and student presentations. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Telecourse: The Telecourse student will engage in independent study of audio/video materials augmented by text and study guide, and in collaboration and participation with class members and faculty via available means. Faculty role is facilitator of learning experiences. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Online: The Online student will engage in independent study of online materials augmented by the text, a study guide, and other materials as required by the instructor. The student also collaborates and participates with class members and instructor via the internet. Faculty role is facilitator of learning experiences. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Grade determination

The student will be graded on assessment tasks, research papers, tests, daily work, class participation, out-of-class assignments and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.