

# Minnesota State College Southeast

## SOCS 1205: Sociology of the Family

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

The purpose of this course is to offer a comprehensive study of the forces external to and within the contemporary Western social institution that we call 'the family'. Current sociological theories and research will be used to study American family structure and functions. Cross-cultural comparisons; family dynamics; disorganization; and change will be included. The course will provide a forum to expose the students to the vast changes that have taken and continue to take place in marriages and family enabling them to make choices in a diverse society. (MnTC Goals 5 & 7) (Prerequisite: none) (3 credits: 3 lecture/0 lab)

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 07/27/2016 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Define and understand variations of family
2. Understand the theoretical perspectives relating to family
3. Examine life cycle and role of the family
4. Stressors in today's family

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Understand the broad spectrum of today's families and realizing the challenges of defining the "typical family"
2. Understand that creating and maintaining marriages and families requires many personal choices made through the life span
3. Recognize that living within a socially diverse society such as ours, many individuals are part of a racial, ethnic, or religious and/or reservation community or social class that has a distinct family heritage
4. Identify the various theoretical perspectives, sociological concepts, definitions, and research techniques/methodologies utilized for studying the family
5. Define love and sexual orientation and the affect on the various cultural messages regarding men's and women's sexuality
6. Recognize the difficulties of parenting, roles of mothers and fathers, parenting styles, and parenting over the life course; Understand that parenting varies with regards to parents' marital status, social class, and racial/ethnic background to include gay male/lesbian parents, grandparents as parents and foster parents
7. Identify the three phases of family crisis, recognizing stressors and managing demands, stress, and transitions to marriage and family-related issues
8. Examine the factors that affect peoples' decision to divorce and the impact on marriage and family-related issues; Recognize the sociological impact of remarriage, stepchildren, financial stressors, and role ambiguity after divorce
9. Understand the sociological impact of the growing number of elderly in the U.S. on society
10. Application of sociological theories (such as structural-functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) to marriage and family-related issues
11. Examine the various patterns/theories by which the majority of individuals in our society choose marriage partners; additionally, explore various cultural courting rituals and ceremonies
12. Realize the challenges of defining the "typical family" and how diversity, historical events and trends have affected today's family structure
13. Realize the importance of communication and managing conflict in marriages and families. Identify the four types of couples: heterosexual married couples, cohabitating heterosexual couples, gay male couples and lesbian couples
14. Realize the role of men and women have changed over time - research shows that American attitudes have grown more liberal regarding men's and women's roles. Emphasis on studying how Native American women have recently begun to regain their power since the 1920 federal regulation which weakened their political power
15. Understand the impact of the movement of women entering the labor force to marriage and family-related issues along with cultural expectations and public policy. Examine the sociological and economic impact of Native American owned casinos
16. Understand the two theoretical perspectives on motivation for parenthood: value of children perspective and the social capital perspective

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

### Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

This course was previously SOCS 2505.