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Sociology (SOC) 2141 Sociology of Marriage (3 Units) CSU
[formerly Sociology 41]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: Sociological analysis of the family, including historical and recent changes, present nature and the socio-cultural and economic forces shaping these changes. C-ID: SOCI 130

Text: Seccombe, Karen. *Exploring Marriages and Families*. 1st ed. Boston, MA: Pearson, 2012.
Print.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to

1. demonstrate an understanding of major sociological theories to the social institution of the family
2. identify and discuss the family from cross-cultural, historical, and political within the family
3. identify and examine gender, age and socialization within the family
4. identify and understand the various kinship and family arrangements
5. describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Why Study Families and Other Close Relationships?

- A. Defining families
- B. Functions of families

Unit II Social Status: Sex, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Social Class

- A. The link between private experiences and social structure
- B. Sex, gender, and patriarchy
- C. Race and ethnicity
- D. Social class
- E. Poverty
- F. The intersections of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, and class

Unit III Building Relationships

- A. Singlehood
- B. Friendships
- C. Dating, courting, and mate selection

- D. Heterosexual cohabitation
- E. Gay and lesbian intimate relationships

- Unit IV Love and Loving Relationships
- A. What is love?
 - B. Love as attachment
 - C. Images of love in history
 - D. Contemporary ideas about love
 - E. Theoretical perspectives on love
 - F. How we experience love
 - G. The downside to relationships and love

- Unit V Sexual Identity, Behavior, and Relationships
- A. Overview of historical and cultural influences on sexuality
 - B. Our sexual selves: biology and culture intertwined
 - C. Sexual scripts
 - D. Gender and sexual scripts: the double standard
 - E. Studying human sexuality
 - F. Sexual behaviors
 - G. Sexual expression throughout our lives
 - H. Sexual satisfaction in committed relationships
 - I. Sex as a social problem: sexually transmitted infections

- Unit VI Communication, Conflict, and Power in Our Relationships
- A. The importance of communication
 - B. The cultural context of communication: embracing difference
 - C. Types of communication
 - D. Sex differences in communication
 - E. Communicating to keep your relationships strong: self-disclosure
 - F. Conflict, communication, and problem solving
 - G. Power, control, and decision making

- Unit VII Marriage
- A. Marriage: here, there, and everywhere
 - B. Marriage in U.S. history
 - C. What is happening to marriage today?
 - D. The marriage premium happiness, health, and economic security
 - E. Does marriage benefit everyone equally?
 - F. Marital satisfaction and success
 - G. The marriage movement and covenant marriage
 - H. Peer marriage

- Unit VIII Thinking about Parenthood
- A. Population and fertility trends worldwide
 - B. Fertility in the U. S.
 - C. The costs and rewards of raising children
 - D. Remaining childfree
 - E. The interconnection of micro and macro: childbirth
 - F. Other paths to parenthood: adoption
 - G. The transition to parenthood

- Unit IX Raising Children
- A. Parenting: it's not the same everywhere
 - B. Socialization: learning to be human
 - C. Parenting styles
 - D. Mothering
 - E. Fathering
 - F. How do children influence their parents?
 - G. Parenting and family contexts
- Unit X Families and the Work They Do
- A. The changing dynamics of the workplace
 - B. Life in a recession
 - C. Family work at home
 - D. Juggling work and family life
 - E. Diversity in families: why we chose to live in Hungary
 - F. Who's minding the kids?
- Unit XI Family Stress and Crisis: Violence among Intimates
- A. The nature of stress and crisis
 - B. Intimate partner violence
 - C. Child abuse and neglect
 - D. Elder abuse
 - E. Explanations for violence among intimates
 - F. The public's response
- Unit XII The Process of Divorce
- A. Divorce in the United States
 - B. Why do people divorce?
 - C. Experiencing divorce
 - D. Divorce and children: child support
 - E. What are the effects of divorce on children?
 - F. Should divorce be more difficult to obtain?
 - G. The 'good divorce'
- Unit XIII Family Life, Partnering, and Remarriage after Divorce
- A. Being single again
 - B. Repartnering after divorce
 - C. Remarriage
 - D. Stepfamilies
 - E. Surviving and thriving in stepfamilies
- Unit XIV Families in Middle and Later Life
- A. The demographic revolution
 - B. Aging in historical perspective
 - C. Family transitions
 - D. The aging couple
 - E. Widowhood
 - F. Grandparents and their grandchildren

- G. Retirement
- H. Health

- Unit XV Looking Ahead: Helping Families Flourish
- A. What do families need to flourish?
 - B. Family policy
 - C. Building resilience: general policies and programs to support families
 - D. Specific policies and programs for children
 - E. Specific policies and programs for the elderly
 - F. What have we learning?

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Answering questions
3. Completing required reading
4. Completing written work

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures
2. Class discussions
3. Audiovisual presentations
4. Small group activities
5. Out-of-class activities
6. Guest speakers

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Objective exams
2. Written assignments
3. Application exercises
4. Research project
5. Field journal
6. Oral presentations
7. Reflection and discussion