

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: Lamanna, Mary Ann, et al. *Marriages, Families, and Relationships: Making Choices in a Diverse Society (MindTap Course List)*. 14th ed., Cengage Learning, 2020.

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, and
6. identify the intersection among race, ethnicity, class, immigration status, age, class, gender, and sexuality within the family.

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I            Studying Families and Other Close Relationships
- A. Defining families
    - a. the family in historical perspectivetraditional family and changing family forms
  - B. Functions of families
- Unit II            Gender Roles and Socialization
- 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 Singlehood, Cohabitation and Other Non-marital Options

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

Unit IV Communication Patterns

- 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 V Marriage

- A. Marriage: here, there, and everywhere
- B. Marriage in U.S. history
- C. Marriage in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- D. The marriage premium happiness, health, and economic security
- E. Equality of marriage benefits
- F. Marital satisfaction and success

Unit VI Parents and Children

- 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 VII Raising Children

- A. Parenting: it's not the same everywhere
- B. Socialization: learning to be human
- C. Parenting styles
- D. Mothering
- E. Fathering
- F. Children's influence on their parents
- G. Parenting and family contexts

Unit VIII Families and Work

- 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. Today's children

- Unit IX      Family Violence, Crises and Change
- 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 X        Separation and Divorce
- A. Divorce in the United States
  - B. Reasons people divorce
  - C. Experiencing divorce
  - D. Divorce and children: child support
  - E. Effects of divorce on children
  - F. Legal procedures for divorce
  - G. The 'good divorce'
- Unit XI       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 XII      Aging and Family 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 XIII     Future of the Family
- A. What families need to flourish?
  - B. Family policy
  - C. Building resilience: general policies and programs to support families
  - D. Policies and programs for children
  - E. Policies and programs for the elderly

**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

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	220800: Sociology
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course

Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	CSD: CSU Area D CSE: CSU Area E LSBS: Local GE Social/Behavioral Sci